FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-102
Thursday
26 May 1994

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-102 CONTENTS *26 May 1994*

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arab-Israeli Talks

Israeli-Palestinian Agricultural Trade Talks Begin *[Jerusalem Radio]* 1

Inter-Arab Affairs

Libya Seeks AMU Action To End Yemen Conflict *[Tripoli Radio]* 1

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat To Arrive in Gaza, Jericho 12 Jun *[Jerusalem Radio]* 1
'Arafat Meets With Self-Rule Administration Members *[Rabat Radio]* 1
'Arafat Views Constitutional, Legal Issues *[Paris LE FIGARO 21-22 May]* 1
Ghawshah on Tasks Ahead, Foreign Aid, Laws *[Cairo International]* 3
Police Try To Deny IDF General Entry Into Autonomy *[Jerusalem TV]* 3
Israel Prevents 30 PLA Personnel From Entering Gaza *[AL-QUDS 25 May]* 4
Jericho Security Official Views Tasks, Settlers *[AL-QUDS 25 May]* 4
Gaza Official on Israeli Criticism, Weapons Collection *[AL-QUDS 25 May]* 4
Hamas Activist Receives 'Quasi-Military' Funeral *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 5
Fatah Hawks Drafted Into Police Force *[Jerusalem Radio]* 5
Fatah, Organizations Call For Release of Yasin *[Algiers VOP]* 5
Al-Quds Radio Says Israel Jamming Operating Waves 5
Spokesman Rejects Demand for 'Arafat To 'Reaffirm' *[London AL-HAYAH 24 May]* 6
Russia's Posuvalyuk, DFLP's Hawatimah Meet *[Damascus Radio]* 6
Difficulties Facing Palestinian Authority Viewed *[AL-QUDS 24 May]* 6
Columnist Derides 'Arafat's Jihad Call *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 24 May]* 7
Suha 'Arafat Denies Rumors of Impending Divorce *[Beirut Radio]* 7

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Security Services Kill Two Assassin Suspects *[Algiers Radio]* 8
Arms Seized in Search Operation *[Algiers TV]* 8
Director General of Company Found Slain *[Algiers TV]* 8

Egypt

Mubarak Holds Meeting With U.S. Newsmen *[MENA]* 8
Sudan Continues To Seize Egyptian Properties *[MENA]* 9
  Teachers Expelled From Quarters *[MENA]* 9
Mubarak Receives 'Id Greetings From Sudan *[MENA]* 9
Musa Discusses Cease-Fire Efforts in Yemen *[MENA]* 9
South Yemen's al-'Attas Arrives in Cairo *[MENA]* 10
Fired Yemeni Envoy Shuts Cairo Embassy *[MENA]* 10
Weekly Publishes Medical Report on Lawyer's Death *[MENA]* 10
Lawyer's Link to Islamic Group Explained *[MENA]* 11

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Interviewed on Current Concerns *[London AL-HAYAH 25 May]* 12

Morocco

King Hassan Appoints New Prime Minister *[Rabat Radio]* 16

Sudan

Khalifah, Delegation Return From Nairobi Talks *[SUNA]* 16
  Party Claims Talks 'Waste of Time' *[Nairobi TV]* 16
Government Forces Capture 'Important' Border Town *[SUNA]* 16
Split Reported in Opposition's Military Arm *[London AL-HAYAH 21 May]* 16
Former Premier Vows Action To Restore Democracy *[MENA]* 17
Egypt Protests Actions Against 'Interests, Property' 17
  Egyptian Embassy Delivers Memorandum *[Cairo Radio]* 17
  Government Denies Seizure of Property *[SUNA]* 17
  Egyptian Envoy Summoned Over Dispute *[SUNA]* 17

Western Sahara

Interview With West Saharan President *[Algiers Radio]* 18

ARABIAN PENINSULA

United Arab Emirates

Zayid Receives Phone Call From 'President' al-Bid *[WAKH]* 21
Zayid Renews Appeal to Salih To End Fighting *[WAKH]* 21
Yemen's al-Ahmar Arrives on Two-Day Visit *[Sanaa Radio]* 21

Yemen

Salih Attends National Symposium in Sanaa 21
  Meets Party, Public Figures *[Sanaa Radio]* 21
  Delivers Address at Symposium *[Sanaa Radio]* 21
  Symposium Emphasizes Allegiance *[Sanaa Radio]* 24
Salih Chairs Commanders Meeting; Hadi Attends *[Sanaa Radio]* 24
  Further on Meeting With Commanders *[Sanaa Radio]* 24
Defense Minister Makes Appeal to 'Misled' Forces *[Sanaa Radio]* 25
Sanaa Said Taking U.S. Dialogue Effort 'Seriously' *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 26
Scud Victims' Burial Noted; Battles Updated *[AFP]* 26
Al-Bid: Military Situation 'Unstable and Fluid' *[London MBC TV]* 27
YSP Officials' Families Reportedly Fleeing Country *[Sanaa Radio]* 27
YSP Official: Al-Bid Appreciative of Mubarak's Stance *[London AL-HAYAH 24 May]* 27
South Calls For Negotiations, Arab League Conference *[Aden Radio]* 28
Southern Official: Salih-al-Bid Meeting Possible *[Damascus Radio]* 28
Former South President Condemns Decision To Secede *[London AL-HAYAH 24 May]* 28
  Cites 'Initiative' To End Crisis *[MENA]* 29
Aden Reports Northern Troops Suffering Defeats *[Aden Radio]* 29
North Warned Against Attacking Southern Ports *[Aden Radio]* 29
'Analysts' Cited on 'Differences' in YSP Leadership *[Sanaa Radio]* 29
Secession Declaration, UAE 'Recognition' Viewed *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 25 May]* 30

IRAQ

Report on Chemical Weapons Use in Gulf War Refuted *[INA]* 32
Diplomat Said Expelled From U.S. for 'Violations' *[Amman Radio]* 32

Decree Relieves Agriculture Minister of Post *[INA]* ... 32
Kurdistan Democratic Party Urges Irbil Withdrawal *[Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan]* ... 32
Implications of Capacitor Story Disclosures Viewed *[INA]* ... 33

ISRAEL

Rabin, Sources on PLO Violation of Agreement *[Tel Aviv Radio]* ... 34
Peres Discusses 'Arafat Behavior, Legal Decree *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 35
Minister: 'Arafat Decree No Violation of Accord *[DAVAR 26 May]* ... 35
Shahal: 'Arafat Needs Invitation To Visit Jerusalem *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 35
Peres Holds Meetings With UNSC Members, Clinton ... 35
    Urges UNSC To Aid Palestinians *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 35
    Raises New Regional Security Initiative *[HA'ARETZ 26 May]* ... 36
Officials Differ on Timing of Request for U.S. Aid *[HA'ARETZ 20 May]* ... 36
Jericho Reopened to Palestinian Traffic *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 37
Qatif Bloc Settlements Continue to Grow *[Jerusalem New Channel 2 TV]* ... 37
Qatif Bloc Settlers Form Security Action Committee *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 37
Thousands Demonstrate Against Government Policies *[HA'ARETZ 22 May]* ... 37
IDF Soldier Slightly Wounded by 'Terrorist' *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 38
Sources Claim Lebanon Rejects Peace Proposal *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 38
Jaffee Center Experts View Mideast Peace Process *[DAVAR 19 May]* ... 38
Press Reaction to al-Dirani Kidnapping *[HA'ARETZ 22 May, etc]* ... 39

LEBANON

Reaction to al-Dirani Kidnapping Continues ... 41
    Nasrallah Holds News Conference *[AL-SAFIR 25 May]* ... 41
    Army Commander Rebuts Criticism *[Beirut Radio]* ... 42
    Al-Tufayil Says Arad Probably Dead *[AL-ANWAR 24 May]* ... 42
Source Denies Receiving Israeli Withdrawal Offer *[Beirut Radio]* ... 43

SYRIA

Al-Shar', Yeltsin Envoy Discuss Peace Process *[Damascus Radio]* ... 44
    Further on al-Shar'-Posuvalyuk Talks *[Damascus Radio]* ... 44
Daily Rejects Peres' Statement on Normalization *[Damascus Radio]* ... 44
Need for Total Israeli Golan Pullout Reiterated *[Damascus Radio]* ... 44
Premier, Iranian Envoy Discuss Expansion of Ties *[IRNA]* ... 45

SOUTH ASIA

India

Rao Encourages Private Investment in Power Sector *[Delhi Radio]* ... 46
Media Offer Varying Assessments of Rao U.S. Trip ... 46
    Radio Hails 'Unqualified' Success *[Delhi International]* ... 46
    Visit 'Nothing To Write Home About' *[BUSINESS LINE 21 May]* ... 47
    Overture to U.S. Industry Praised *[THE PIONEER 21 May]* ... 47
    'Indifferent' U.S. Attitude Scored *[JANSATTA 21 May]* ... 48
Article Praises 'Stringent' New Copyright Law *[THE HINDUSTAN TIMES 23 May]* ... 49
Russia To Deliver First Cryogenic Engine in 1996 *[Delhi Radio]* ... 50

Iran

President Welcomes Turkmen Counterpart to Mashhad *[Tehran Radio]* ... 50
Foreign Ministry Spokesman on Yemen, Island Dispute *[IRNA]* ... 51
Paper Blames Both Sides for Yemeni Breakup *[IRNA]* ... 51
Radio Assails Fahd's Remarks on Islands Dispute *[Tehran Radio]* ... 51
Majles Speaker Holds News Conference *[Tehran TV]* ... 52

Ra'd-7 Military Operation Ends in Shiraz *[IRNA]* 53
'Fourth Phase' Recounted *[Tehran TV]* 53
S. African Officiai: Tehran Embassy To Open 'Soon' *[IRNA]* 53
Delegation Seeks Expanded Trade *[Tehran Radio]* 54
Persian Gulf Island Seeks Foreign Investment *[AFP]* 54
TEHRAN TIMES Skeptical of Price Controls *[IRNA]* 55
Oil Company Official Sees 'Faint' Hope of Price Hike *[IRNA]* 55
Editorial Views President's Remarks on Media *[JAHAN-E ESLAM 14 May]* 55
IRNA Inaugurates Satellite System *[IRNA]* 56

Pakistan

Asif Ali Sees New Phase of Relationship With U.S. *[Islamabad TV]* 56
Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Pays Visit 56
First Round Talks Held *[Islamabad TV]* 56
President Meets With Adamishin *[Islamabad TV]* 56
Spokesman Comments on Visit *[Islamabad Radio]* 57
Peace Plan To Be Submitted to Afghan Leaders *[Islamabad Radio]* 57
Navy Chief: Indian Navy Missile Program 'Ominous' *[THE NATION 16 May]* 57
Aircraft To Be Purchased From Central Asian States *[JANG 17 May]* 58
Bhutto Urged To Clarify Nuclear, Missile Reports *[NAWA-I-WAQT 17 May]* 58

Sri Lanka

Parliament Extends State of Emergency *[Colombo International]* 58
Prime Minister Leaves for ROK Visit *[Colombo International]* 58

Arab-Israeli Talks

Israeli-Palestinian Agricultural Trade Talks Begin

TA2505160094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] Israeli-Palestinian negotiations on agricultural trade arrangements between Israel and the autonomy have begun at Tel Aviv's Carlton Hotel.

Israel's delegation is headed by Agriculture Ministry Director General Yehonatan Bashi, and the Palestinian delegation is led by Khalid al-Qidrah, a PLO leader in the Gaza Strip, who recently arrived from Tunis. The talks are aimed at working out procedures for agricultural trade between Israel and the autonomy and measures to make ascertain the quality of the agricultural produce entering Israel. There is special concern about the use of pesticides and the health of the animals in the autonomy. Our correspondent notes that even before the talks started it was decided that mutual agricultural trade will take place only if the standards used in Israel are upheld in the autonomy. Our correspondent recalls that under the autonomy agreement, the borders will be opened to free passage of agricultural produce, except for five sectors, in which temporary quotas have been introduced. These are: tomatoes, potatoes, cucumbers, eggs, and spring chickens. There is no doubt that hoof-and-mouth disease, which has recently been uncovered in Jericho, and ways to prevent it from spreading, will undoubtedly come up in the talks.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Libya Seeks AMU Action To End Yemen Conflict

LD2405135994 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 24 May 94

[Text] The brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity has sent a message to the brother minister of foreign affairs in Algeria in his capacity as chairman of the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] foreign ministers' council. The message stresses the need for the AMU to take united action toward the current developments in Yemen, to work toward ending the fighting between the brothers, and to preserve the territorial integrity of Yemen in accordance with the treaty of the Arab Maghreb unity and in implementation of the resolutions of the Union's presidential council.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat To Arrive in Gaza, Jericho 12 Jun

TA2605051794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat is to arrive on the 12th of next month for a three-day visit to Jericho and Gaza. A message to this effect has been relayed by 'Arafat's advisers to the Israeli Government. Our correspondent notes that 'Arafat postponed his visit by one week due to Israel's demand that he give at least two weeks advance notice of his arrival.

According to Palestinian sources, Israel is not allowing 'Arafat to visit East Jerusalem and the Temple Mount. During his visit in Jericho 'Arafat will meet U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who is scheduled to return to our region.

'Arafat Meets With Self-Rule Administration Members

LD2505235694 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] The Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat held a meeting with some members of the group entrusted with administering the self-rule in Gaza and Jericho in Tunis this evening.

Palestinian sources said that more than ten members of the group participated in the unofficial meeting, and that the other 18 members concerned would arrive tomorrow in Tunis to take part in the first official meeting of the group during which they were expected to be sworn in and prepare the group's working program for the forthcoming period.

Palestinian sources had previously announced that tomorrow's meeting would also be distinguished by announcing the names of the remaining members of the self-rule administration group; the Cairo agreement on implementing self-rule stipulated that it would comprise 24 members.

'Arafat Views Constitutional, Legal Issues

BR2505124794 Paris LE FIGARO in French 21-22 May 94 p 4

[Report on interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Jean-Marc Varaut in Tunis; date not given: "Toward a State Based on the Rule of Law"]

[Text] A modest cottage in the outskirts of Tunis. A number of easy-going Tunisian soldiers and suspicious-looking Palestinian bodyguards were scrutinizing the visitors, who, during the night, had been summoned from their hotel, where they had been waiting for the indefinite hour of the interview granted by the chairman of the Palestinian National Council. This is the name of the new authority ruling over the Gaza and Jericho autonomous territories. With my friend Bernard Regnier, we waited for a long time for the "Open sesame!" to be announced by one of 'Arafat's faithful companions. It was no longer the liberation movement leader who received me, and who, last October when we first met displayed a Lorraine cross which he is said to have worn for the past 27 years, but Palestine's new president.

French Model

Although his black eyes were circled with red, betraying the fatigue felt by this indomitable man, 'Arafat laughed willingly. He laughed when I quoted Max Weber: "A state is recognized when it has the monopoly of legitimate violence." If we add autonomy (that is to say, etimologically speaking, the power to decree its own laws), a territory over which a single authority now rules, and international recognition (by 127 countries, as 'Arafat himself pointed out), we have all the constituent elements that go to make a sovereign state. However, his answer was a cautious one: "I am now the president of an independent country, but only after a number of years will this state have all the attributes of its sovereignty, as well as a fully-fledged role in the United Nations Organization."

Yet, the signs of sovereignty are unmistakable: There is a Parliament, which will be renewed in October, following democratic elections based on electoral constituencies, including both Palestinians in the liberated territories and Palestinians abroad, who are still not authorised to come back; a government is in the process of being formed, and will include three Christian ministers; Yasir 'Arafat showed me the "decree" which he had just signed by which a Supreme Court had been created: "The judges are already on site in Gaza, Jericho, and the West Bank." He stressed the fact that the judges, once appointed, are independent and irremovable. The division of powers is ratified by the founding chart, which he ordered be brought to him, framed and illuminated with the Palestinian flag's colors.

On three specific issues which Palestine must now address—the Constitution, human rights, and Islam's place within the state—he gave firm, clear-cut answers. To begin with, he confirmed that the Palestinian constitution will be of the presidential type, inspired by the French model. Yasir 'Arafat handed me the draft provisional Constitution for the interim period, drawn up in Arabic, as yet unpublished, and which is to be submitted to the Palestinian Parliament as soon as the latter is constituted. He also confirmed Palestine's unreserved adherence to UN ideals, the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the 1966 agreements on civil and political rights as well as economic, social, and cultural rights: "There will be no discrimination between Muslims and non-Muslims, or between men and women, who will have equal rights... Palestine is the fatherland of all Palestinians of all comunnities."

He reminded me that the 1988 declaration of independence was already based, in his view, on the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and that the National Palestinan Council considers human rights a source of inspiration for future legislation: "The ideals of justice, solidarity, consultation, and accountability of those who govern, which form part of the Arab cultural identity, are not contrary to the Western ethos on which the 1948 Declaration is based." Switching to French, 'Arafat repeatedly stressed that he would like to see the spirit of tolerance prevail over the revanchist spirit.

"There is a time to convince, and a time to build." This is why he broached the question of using French, which he wishes to promote as opposed to the dominant practice of speaking English, which was the language of the [British] mandate. He indicated that President Mitterand gave him assurances that the Sorbonne, where Yasir 'Arafat's wife was a brilliant student in her youth, will sponsor a Palestinian Humanities and Sciences university. Furthermore, he warmly gave me his agreement to arrange for French law professors and the Paris bar to contribute to the development of the Palestinian judicial institutions and legislation.

Unified Legal System

I reminded him of the role of French jurists in drawing up Turkish, Lebanese, Syrian, and Egyptian legislation. With Nabil Sha'th [adviser to 'Arafat], we discussed the pervasive Anglo-Saxon influence on Israeli and Palestinian criminal law, and the current opposition between the legal systems based on the Napoleonic codes and those based on British Common Law.

During the interim period, Jordanian law will be provisionally applied at the West Bank, and Egyptian law in the Gaza Strip, but Yasir 'Arafat is in favor of rapidly unifying the legal system. The aim is to rationalize Islamic law and to assimilate Western law without grating on Palestine's sense of identity or childishly imitating existing models.

Fortunately, Yasir 'Arafat is not liable to the temptation to resolve political and economic problems through a surfeit of legislation. He confirmed that Palestine had opted for the free market and that it had rejected state-socialism and its paralysing and stifling bureaucracy.

We ended our long conversation by my asking him about Islam's place in the new state. I reminded him that, out of 19 Arab states that have a constitution, 13 adopted Islam as a state religion (in Saudi Arabia, moreover, it is the sole religion), whereas five states do not establish any formal link between the state and Islam (Lebanon, Somalia, Djibuti, Libya, and Syria). On this point he referred me to the decision to be reached by the Palestinian National Council. However, he ruled out that the new state would be an Islamic state. Religious freedom and the right to practice any religion are affirmed by Article 3 of the provisional Constitution, as is the right to set up private schools within all the different communities. Christian Palestinians, who constitute an important minority, will enjoy the same rights as Muslim Palestinians. Thus the new political establishment, which professes to be democratic, liberal, and pluralistic, will be nondenominational.

Nevertheless, two of the draft Constitution's articles contain the germs of potential discord with Israel, just as they may, conversely, lead to agreement. Indeed, Article

5 states that Jerusalem is Palestine's capital, even though during the transitional period the Palestinian Government's seat can be located anywhere else in the Palestinian territory. The 13 September 1993 agreements, in fact, have left unaddressed the question of Jerusalem's status. However, Article 31 suggests a rapprochement: "Jerusalem is a holy city for all three religions. Palestine, faithful to the spiritual tradition, will ensure the cohabitation of the different religions both in Jerusalem and in Palestine as a whole."

Ghawshah on Tasks Ahead, Foreign Aid, Laws

NC2605072794 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 26 May 94

[Telephone interview with Samir Ghawshah, member of the PLO Executive Committee and the Palestinian National Authority, in Tunis, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Jundi] Dr. Ghawshah, the Palestinian Authority's meeting yesterday no doubt focused on its new tasks. What are these new tasks in light of the available resources?

[Ghawshah] During the meeting we discussed our working program and the tasks we must undertake. The Palestinian National Authority is taking over after 27 years of Israeli occupation. We have major tasks and responsibilities. Our discussions are serious and responsible because they deal with all the political, economic, social, and cultural issues. It was therefore necessary to hold an initial discussion of the National Authority's tasks and program ahead.

[Al-Jundi] Dr. Ghawshah, doubtless the new Palestinian authority faces many obstacles, notably the economic conditions in Gaza and Jericho. What efforts is the PLO making in this regard?

[Ghawshah] The main obstacle has to do with the Israeli occupation, both with regard to eliminating its aftereffects in the areas from which the Israelis have withdrawn and fully implementing the Declaration of Principles. A major economic problem we are facing now resulted from the Israeli occupation's policy of annexing and merging the Palestinian economy with Israel's, disrupting and ruining the economy and in some cases leading to a total loss of the infrastructure necessary for economic activity.

[Al-Jundi] Dr. Ghawshah, according to World Bank sources the Palestinian autonomous areas will obtain $1 billion over the next three years, part of an overall $2-billion package to be distributed in three stages. How can these economic resources best be utilized to encourage development in the Palestinian autonomous areas?

[Ghawshah] I would like first to say that the Palestinians have made all the administrative and organizational preparations to build a sound economy in line with international specifications and conditions. Despite the promises of aid, no aid or loans have been received. We hope this will happen soon, especially as our people inside the occupied territories are suffering from the effects of occupation. Because of the sieges, particularly the siege of Gaza, our people badly need to begin economic development and reconstruction. This will ease our people's economic difficulties. We hope the World Bank and the donor countries' promises and commitments will be kept.

[Al-Jundi] Dr. Ghawshah, let us move a little from the economic side of the Palestinian Authority to the security side and the situation in Gaza and Jericho. The Israeli Foreign Ministry issued a statement protesting Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat's abrogation of the law applied in Gaza and Jericho since 1967 and his reinstating earlier laws. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said the Palestinians should be given the opportunity to adjust in the self- rule areas. How do you see things now?

[Ghawshah] I would like first to say something about security. Our people, in what were the occupied areas, including those opposed to the self-rule agreement, welcomed the Palestinian police and security forces with open arms. Another thing: It is the right of the Palestinian National Authority to make decisions as it sees fit to consolidate its role and provide our people with services.

The decision by brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] on reinstating earlier laws is an interim measure pending the passage of new laws by the Palestinian Authority. Naturally, following the withdrawal of Israeli forces, the military orders of these forces could not remain in effect in Gaza and Jericho.

If any issues merited objection, such issues should be clarified by returning to the Declaration of Principles. The Declaration of Principles specifies the Palestinian authority's powers and notes its right to pass laws and legislation. If Israel has any objection, it can raise it procedurally instead of disputing the power of the Palestinian Authority to pass laws and legislation.

[Al-Jundi] Thank you.

[Ghawshah] You're welcome.

Police Try To Deny IDF General Entry Into Autonomy

TA2505181394 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] Palestinian policemen tried to prevent Brigadier General Doron Almog, IDF [Israel Defense Forces] commander of the Gaza Strip, from entering the autonomy. Our correspondent Shlomi Eldar reports that a Palestinian policeman stopped Gen. Almog near Netzarim and told him to go back from where he came or he would shoot at the wheels of Almog's vehicle. The general telephoned Brig. Ziyad al-Atrash, who arrived at the site. After talking to the Palestinian policeman, al-Atrash informed them that Brig. Gen. Almog could enter the autonomy whenever he wished to do so.

Israel Prevents 30 PLA Personnel From Entering Gaza

NC2505191194 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 25 May 94 P 2

[Report by 'Ala' al-Mashharawi from Gaza]

[Text] Over 30 officers and soldiers of the Palestine Liberation Army [PLA] began a hunger strike in the Canada Camp, located within the borders of the Egyptian town of Rafah, yesterday to protest the Israeli authorities' decision to ban them from crossing into the Gaza Strip.

First Lieutenant Husayn Abu-Sulaymah, an official at the Khan Yunus post and who managed to enter the Gaza Strip 10 days ago, said that the Israeli military authorities have prevented them from entering on the pretext that their names contain errors and discrepancies, although his brother is one of them.

It is worth noting that the families of the officers and soldiers can only send greetings and regards to them across the barbed wire dividing the city of Rafah. The relatives of the officers and soldiers complained to the National Authority officials and the Palestinian security men about this step. The officials have pledged to solve this problem as soon as possible.

The officers and soldiers addressed an appeal to the PLO leadership to help them cross the Egyptian-Palestinian borders and reach the homeland.

Jericho Security Official Views Tasks, Settlers

NC2505211994 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 25 May 94 p 2

[Report by Sa'id 'Ayyad in Jericho, QUDS PRESS]

[Text] Jibril al-Rajjub, who has been appointed by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat as the official in charge of preventive security in the West Bank, has said that if the settlers try to break the law, we will confront them and deal with them harshly. He noted that their presence is illegal and described them as a "time bomb." He said that if they break the law we will not throw roses or rice at them.

Al-Rajjub, who returned to the occupied territories from Tunis on 17 May, said that the agreement that the PLO and Israel signed is "unfair." He said that the Palestinian party is committed to keeping law and order regarding the settlers and others. He said: We pledge to all Palestinian political forces to respect their right to express their stances freely and in a democratic and civilized way. He noted that every political force has the right to call for strikes, stage demonstrations, hold seminars, protest to the authorities, and express their views as they deem fit. However, he vowed that the Palestinian authorities will be firm and not allow any political faction to take the law into its hand and impose a strike by force.

Regarding the pro-Israeli collaborators, al-Rajjub, who holds the rank of a colonel in the Palestinian security organ, said that they constitute a very serious factor. He said that this problem will be handled on a case-by-case basis and in accordance with the degree of the crime committed by these collaborators. However, he stressed that from now on the Palestinian authorities will not allow any collaborator to think he is above the law or to carry arms on the streets. He called on individuals who collaborated with Israel to reconsider their past so that the new authorities will be able to determine their future.

Al-Rajjub emphasized that the Palestinian security organ will establish close cooperation with the Arab security agencies and emphasized that there will be no direct or indirect cooperation with the Israeli security agencies.

Gaza Official on Israeli Criticism, Weapons Collection

NC2505172694 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 25 May 94 p 4

[Report by AL-BALAD PRESS and 'Abd-al-Jabbar al-Barghuthi]

[Text] Gaza—Lawyer Furayh Abu-Middayn, member of the Palestinian Authority in the Gaza Strip, said that the storm raised by Israel regarding President 'Arafat's statement in Johannesburg, in which he compared the Palestinian-Israeli agreement to the Peace of al-Hudaybiyyah, is just a tempest in a teacup designed to block the way to negotiations about the final stage. He added that he firmly believes that the Meretz Movement and its ministers are no less extreme than Rabin. They are all gripped by ideological rather than security fears. He said that at this time the Israeli Government wants to distort the image of the National Authority in Gaza and Jericho around the world and to portray it as being unable to shoulder its responsibilities in order to block the possibility of spreading Palestinian self-rule to the other parts of the West Bank.

He expressed surprise at Israel's claims that the Palestinian security forces are unable to control the situation in the Gaza Strip. This is despite the Israeli Government's knowledge that the donor states have so far not fulfilled their promises to equip the Palestinian police forces. For example, the Palestinian security forces have no radio equipment. They also have no suitable logistical means. The military vehicles they are using now are large and old and unsuitable for the task.

Abu-Middayn asked: How could any police force in the world carry out its duties successfully without such necessary equipment? He noted that the Israeli Army with all its might could not prevent operations against

Israeli targets for the past 27 years, whereas now the Israelis are demanding that the Palestinian security forces control the situation in the self-rule areas within a few days.

He said that if the purpose is to show that the Palestinians have failed the test and to involve them in a civil war, we say clearly that intra-Palestinian fighting is prohibited, and the Palestinians will frustrate the hopes of those who are wagering on such war.

Regarding the National Authority's efforts to collect the weapons in the Gaza Strip, Abu-Middayn said that there are about 20,000 weapons, 80 percent of which are in the possession regular citizens. These must be collected. Those who wish to keep their weapons must get a license from the appropriate Palestinian authority. Regarding the remaining 20 percent of weapons, they are in the possession of factions, and we must discuss the issue with them in order to maintain purity of arms.

He added that in its bid to collect the weapons, the authority will not raid houses and search them. It will ban people from carrying weapons in the streets and public places.

Abu-Middayn expressed the view that the Rabin Administration's refusal to evacuate the settlements in the Gaza Strip will perpetuate the friction, complicating matters on the scene and prompting some people to hold on to their weapons for self-defense against attacks by the settlers.

He said: Despite limited resources, we have started building legislative and judicial systems, and we will prove to the world that we can establish an independent Palestinian state.

Hamas Activist Receives 'Quasi-Military' Funeral

TA2505163894 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 25 May 94

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent Oren Kohen]

[Text] In a funeral procession last night, Palestinian policemen carried on their shoulders the body of Jihad 'Asfur, an Islamic Jihad activist who was killed by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers' fire on 22 May. 'Asfur's funeral was held in Khan Yunus, and he was buried in a quasi-military ceremony. His body was driven to the cemetery on a Palestinian police jeep. Some 30 policemen attended the funeral, and with them were 10 members of the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam squads, the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] military arm, who were armed with M-16 rifles. Thousands of Hamas supporters came to the funeral. Four Palestinian policemen carried 'Asfur's body to the grave. According to eye witnesses, one of the policeman even kissed the body before it was buried. The policemen and the Hamas activists fired their guns in the air to salute 'Asfur, as is customary in military funerals.

As will be recalled, the Fatah leaders declared that the Palestinian policemen intend to disarm Hamas activists and other armed Palestinians. 'Asfur was killed on 22 May when IDF soldiers fired antitank missiles at a house on the outskirts of Hebron.

Fatah Hawks Drafted Into Police Force

TA2605050494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] One hundred and twenty members of the Fatah Hawks have been inducted into the Palestinian police forces. The autonomy police are today beginning a recruiting drive in the Gaza Strip. Advertisements in newspapers there are calling on Palestinians aged 18 to 25 to join. They will replace older members of the former Palestinian Liberation Army.

Fatah, Organizations Call For Release of Yasin

LD2505191994 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] A communique distributed in Gaza yesterday and signed by the Fatah Movement, captives movement [al-harakah al-asirah], and all the national and humanitarian organizations, said that the guardian [ra'i] sentenced to life imprisonment was suffering from paralysis of the right leg and a slipped disc after undergoing two surgical operations, with no progress in his state of health. The communique said that the guardian was in solitary confinement at the al-Ramlah prison and that he could die any at any moment.

The communique called on all human rights organizations in the world to intervene to put pressure on the Israeli Government to release all the prisoners and appealed to people of conscience to take serious actions to end the suffering and to secure the immediate release of Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, who is suffering from various ailments in addition to almost total paralysis.

Prisoners urged the population to stage sit-ins at the offices of the Red Cross, fly black flags, demand the release of the prisoners, and convey their demands to legal and international bodies.

Al-Quds Radio Says Israel Jamming Operating Waves

JN2505174194 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] Brothers: Our national newspapers have published a report that al-Quds Palestinian Arab radio in Arabic on the path of liberating land and man is jamming the enemy radio's Arabic broadcasts. To clarify matters, the Technical Division of al-Quds Radio wishes to explain the following:

1. General Rabin used to jam al-Quds Radio. He has designated several radio stations to jam most of our

operating waves. Our masses in the homeland and the diaspora have been aware of this fact since the beginning of our transmission.

2. To face the enemy's jamming of al-Quds Radio, we are obliged to change our frequencies from time to time, particularly those on the medium waves.

3. Whenever the enemy increases its jamming of al-Quds Radio, especially during signing ceremonies of treacherous and humiliating agreements, to prevent our voice from reaching our people's masses, we change our main medium wave and choose a frequency that is close to that of the enemy's radio so that jamming will also affect the enemy's radio.

4. Edmond Sehayek, head of the Zionist enemy Radio's Arabic Department, is the first to know about the jamming his equipment is carrying out against al-Quds Radio, the Palestinian Arab Radio on the path of liberating land and man.

Edmond Sehayek, head of the Zionist enemy Radio's Arabic Department, whose radio usually changes facts, uses equipment to jam our radio, contrary to his published allegations. At the same time, he keeps silent over Rabin's decision to continue jamming of al-Quds Radio because he knows that al-Quds Radio is the radio of the Palestinian masses in the homeland and the diaspora and the radio of those who have no voice and who fear that its voice will reach people. Therefore Sehayek jams our operating frequencies.

[Signed] The Technical Division of al-Quds Radio

Spokesman Rejects Demand for ’Arafat To ‘Reaffirm’

PM2505131394 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 24 May 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Ruba al-Husari and Rashid Khashanah: "Israel Demands that 'Arafat Reaffirm Commitment to Cairo Accord in Writing"]

[Excerpt] Gaza, Tunis—A Palestinian official told AL-HAYAH yesterday that the agreement on the implementation of self-rule signed officially in Cairo by President Yasir 'Arafat "does not need to be signed again." He was responding to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's demand that 'Arafat reaffirm in writing his commitment to the accord, otherwise the negotiations with the PLO would be suspended.

Hasan 'Asfur, who has been director general of the department following up negotiations with the Israelis since his return to the Gaza Strip last week, has said that "commitment to the accord was announced before the entire world, not in a closed room. The Israeli Government, the PLO, and the cosponsors of the peace process all have a copy of the text."

'Asfur, who participated in the Cairo negotiations and in drafting the Gaza-Jericho agreement, said that "despite the difficulties that emerge from time to time, the agreement to continue the negotiations is binding on the Israelis, just as it is binding on the Palestinians." He went on: "There are no preconditions in the agreement. It might help Rabin to read its clauses."

'Asfur said that the second part of the negotiations concerning the early transfer of powers in the West Bank could begin in June. He added that Palestinian President 'Arafat's presence in the self-rule areas is essential before these negotiations begin. [passage omitted]

Russia's Posuvalyuk, DFLP's Hawatimah Meet

JN2505194994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] Russian envoy Viktor Posuvalyuk today met with a Palestinian delegation led by Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP].

During the meeting, they discussed the Palestinian situation and the successive developments in the wake of the signing of the Cairo agreement. The Russian envoy indicated the importance of the terms of reference for negotiations on the Palestinian-Israeli track, based on international legitimacy and its resolutions, in a way that secures the Palestinian people's right to establish an independent state and guarantee a just solution to the refugee issue.

For his part, Hawatimah said the Cairo agreement fragmented the Arab negotiation front and opened the way for separate and partial solutions that cannot achieve comprehensive peace and stability in the region. He indicated this agreement carries the elements of its own failure.

Hawatimah demanded the activation of the Russian role in the region in order to achieve the interests of the Arab and Russian peoples and bring about real peace.

Difficulties Facing Palestinian Authority Viewed

NC2605045694 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 24 May 94 p 13

[Editorial: "Difficulties That Must Be Overcome"]

[Text] Observers currently agree that just as they expected a few weeks ago, the process of transferring power to the Palestinian National Authority will not be easy, particularly in light of the bad economic conditions prevailing in the occupied territories.

The process as a whole is considered an extremely important historical turning point. The Palestinian people are aware of their duty to ensure the success of this process, because the cost of failure, God forbid, would be extremely tragic.

The Palestinians' task at present is to establish the organs and cadres of the Palestinian Authority, on the one hand,

and to keep the wheels of government turning, on the other, in order to provide the necessary services to the citizens and create jobs for tens of thousands of unemployed workers. This demands the establishment of industrial and agricultural projects in the areas of the transitional authority to absorb these workers as soon as possible.

There is no doubt that ensuring security and peace is considered one of the main challenges and difficult tests facing the Palestinians. In view of these difficulties and obstacles, the Palestinians must make greater efforts and sacrifices to overcome them. The states that have pledged to provide economic aid to the Palestinians are called upon to fulfill their commitments. Numerous dangers are threatening peace. Time is definitely one of the factor endangering the peace process and Palestinian aspirations.

Columnist Derides 'Arafat's Jihad Call

PM2505155394 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 May 94 p 9

[Article by 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Rashid: "Abu-'Ammar's Jihad!!"]

[Excerpts] Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is very angry because Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has declared jihad against the Israelis from South Africa. We wish to reassure him here that 'Arafat's jihad call will not achieve for him more than he can achieve at the negotiating table. Abu-'Ammar ['Arafat] did not achieve much when he was calling for jihad just a few miles away from Palestine, let alone doing that from Johannesburg at the far end of Africa. [passage omitted]

In the view of the majority, jihad is no longer jihad because most battles are between brothers, for personal vendettas, or foreign battles fought on Islamic territory. With the weakening of the leadership and its credibility, the word jihad has become weaker. Rabin, therefore, should rest assured that Abu-'Ammar's call will not move the people of South Africa, just as it did not move others.

The real jihad was that of the unarmed people who risked their lives to target the head of an Israeli soldier with their stones. What came before was just military operations by regular armies.

Even the other organizations which declare jihad in the name of Islam, have two problems. The first is that, like Abu-'Ammar, they make the call from distant places like Tehran, and the second is that they declare jihad as a part of the same organization which brings them together with communist groups at the same table. They cannot carry out their jihad from a place a thousand miles away nor can they call what they are doing jihad when they seek the assistance of communists.

Suha 'Arafat Denies Rumors of Impending Divorce

NC2605065594 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Suha 'Arafat will not revert to [her maiden name] Suha Tawil. 'Arafat and I will remain together until death do us part. With these words, the wife of Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat denied rumors of her intention to divorce following differences with her husband over the arrest of her maternal uncle, who was detained for five days and then released after he was interrogated on charges of squandering public funds.

Algeria

Security Services Kill Two Assassin Suspects

LD2505160994 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] The security services said in a statement today that its forces killed the two Hattab brothers and three other armed persons yesterday in the region of Ben Zerga, Boumerdes Province. The two Hattab brothers were wanted and were implicated in the assassination of the late Kasdi Merbah, the former prime minister and chairman of the Majd movement. They were also involved in the assassination of the late Mustafa Abeda, former director general of national television.

Arms Seized in Search Operation

LD2505203594 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 May 94

[Excerpts] This is a communique issued by the security services: Security services said on 25 May that they were able to locate the headquarters of five terrorists and liquidate them during a search operation at about 0700 yesterday in the Harragua region, Ben Zergua municipality. [passage omitted]

During the operation, six Kalashnikov guns, a Beretta machine gun, and a shotgun were recovered. The guns were all stolen during attacks against members of the security forces. Four members of the security forces were also wounded during the search operation.

The same sources said that the terrorist Hattab Abdelkader, called Mouloud, a cousin of the Hattab brothers, is still wanted by the security forces.

Director General of Company Found Slain

LD2405201794 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 May 94

[Text] According to a statement by the security services, Mr. Abdenour Naceri, the director general of the Districh company, was found murdered near his company in Hussein Day in Algiers on Tuesday morning [24 May]. The body of the victim was found in his private car.

Egypt

Mubarak Holds Meeting With U.S. Newsmen

NC2505132194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1205 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 25 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has stated that Egypt is undertaking a leading role in the Middle East in view of its good relations with all the parties. In this regard it is playing an important role in the peace process to achieve stability and prosperity in the region.

President Mubarak was speaking during a meeting he held today with a delegation of the American Association of Chief Editors of Newspapers and Magazines, which includes 14 chief editors and publishers from various parts of the United States.

Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mun'im, head of the Presidential Press Office, stated that President Mubarak described U.S.-Egyptian relations as good.

President Mubarak said the peace agreement between the Palestinians and the Israelis was just a start and that Egypt is doing its utmost to achieve stability in this part of the world.

President Mubarak stressed that peace has become a necessity. After it is achieved, numerous marginal problems could be solved. He explained that Egypt's firm goal is to establish peace and security in the region, offering prosperity to everyone.

Asked about Egyptian-Iranian relations, President Mubarak said that since coming to power, he has wanted to maintain good relations with every country. But the Iranians have policies of their own.

President Mubarak reaffirmed that terrorism has no future in Egypt and Egypt embraces many Arab institutions and acts according to the law and Constitution. We abide by the law, he said.

He noted: We could have ended terrorism within a few days had we resorted to emergency measures. But we abide by the law. We are encouraged that all the popular factions are against terrorism and do not sympathize with it. Citizens' reports on the terrorists and their activities were a primary factor in uncovering and arresting them.

'Abd-al-Mun'im said that President Mubarak emphasized that religions are a very sensitive issue, adding that the establishment of religious parties must be avoided and noting that the extremists do not seek democracy. Ultimately they want to establish their own style of dictatorship, he said.

President Mubarak explained that he is not against anyone but always works for stability and security.

Regarding U.S. aid, President Mubarak said: We know the aid will not continue forever. We need this aid for a few more years until peace is established throughout the area. We use most of this aid to strengthen the Armed Forces. He noted that many security problems exist in the area.

The president also dealt with the population issue. He affirmed that the birth rate has recently dropped and noted that he has drawn attention to this problem because it constitutes a real threat to the state. He also noted that the popular response has been positive.

In response to a question on tourism, President Mubarak said that the number of tourists dropped after the Gulf war and increased after the acts of violence by terrorists. [sentence as received] He noted that there is now a noticeable improvement as everyone realizes that the wave of violence, which is supported by certain foreign countries, has ebbed. He stressed that Egypt is firm on dealing with terrorism within the framework of legitimacy and law. He pointed out that efforts of those who are trying to threaten Egypt are to no avail. He discussed the domestic situation since he assumed power and reviewed the great projects in the fields of infrastructure, transport, energy, housing, schools, factories, and new cities.

'Abd-al-Mun'im said that in his meeting with the U.S. press delegation, President Mubarak touched on investment in Egypt and explained the removal of numerous obstacles, the last of which was exempting investors from routine measures, which will cost the government 10 million pounds. He noted that these steps have greatly encouraged investment and that three months after making this decision, 180 projects were begun in Suhaj and other areas in Upper Egypt.

In discussing the water problem and its scarcity on regional and international levels, President Mubarak stressed that if peace does not prevail, frictions and conflicts may flare up because of water scarcity. He noted that Egypt is using its water resources in the best possible way.

Sudan Continues To Seize Egyptian Properties

NC2505210494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2010 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] Khartoum, 25 May (MENA)—Dr. Hasan Jad al-Haqq, Egypt's ambassador in Khartoum, this evening held a celebration on the occasion of Africa Day during which he delivered President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's speech in his capacity as chairman of the OAU, in the presence of over 500 guests, including ambassadors and ranking accredited African and Arab figures in Khartoum.

The Sudanese Government's representative was noticeably absent from the celebration, despite the fact that the Sudanese Government was sent an invitation by the head of the African diplomatic corps.

Ugandan Ambassador to Sudan E. Obitre Gama, doyen of the African diplomatic corps in Khartoum, delivered a speech in which he condemned the measures taken by the Sudanese authorities against the Egyptian interests in Khartoum, such as the Egyptian Club, where the celebration was supposed to have been held. Because of this, the celebration was moved to the home of the Egyptian ambassador in Khartoum.

Ambassador Gama thanked Egypt and its ambassador for hosting this celebration and not cancelling it. This gave many Africans an opportunity to celebrate their day.

During the celebration, the Egyptian ambassador received notification from the head of the Egyptian Irrigation Department in Sudan that this evening the Sudanese authorities took control of another house of the Egyptian Irrigation Department in Khartoum, the resident of which is currently on annual leave in Cairo. This report drew condemnations from the sons of the African communities in Sudan who were attending the celebration.

Thus, the number of houses that have been occupied has risen to 14, in addition to the Egyptian Defense Office's three rest houses.

In a statement to the MENA correspondent in Khartoum, Dr. Hasan Jad-al-Haqq affirmed at the end of the celebration that no matter what happened, today's celebration of Africa Day was not going to be cancelled. He affirmed that he considers the residence of the Egyptian ambassador in Khartoum to be the home for all Africans in Sudan.

Teachers Expelled From Quarters

NC2605061094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2238 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] Khartoum, 25 May (MENA)—Sudanese security authorities tonight seized the residential quarters of the Egyptian Community School teachers along with the administrative headquarters of the Egyptian education mission in Khartoum. The Sudanese authorities expelled the teachers from their quarters and assembled them in one location.

It is not clear how many facilities the Sudanese authorities seized. The move is part of a campaign launched recently by the Sudanese authorities to confiscate Egyptian facilities in Sudan. Earlier tonight, the same authorities confiscated a house belonging to the Egyptian Irrigation Ministry.

Mubarak Receives 'Id Greetings From Sudan

NC2505212094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2056 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 25 May (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has received a cable of congratulations from Sudanese President 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir on the occasion of the 'Id al-Adha.

President Mubarak responded with a cable of thanks.

Musa Discusses Cease-Fire Efforts in Yemen

NC2505144694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1403 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 25 May (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that efforts are currently being made to reach a cease-fire in Yemen. He said that Egypt is contacting the parties involved in the Yemeni conflict, and also contacting a number of regional and other interested countries. He made this statement after meeting with Edmund Hull, U.S. charge d'affaires, today for the second time in 24 hours. He met with the U.S. official last night and discussed the situation in Yemen and Somalia.

South Yemen's al-'Attas Arrives in Cairo

NC2605064694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2208 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 25 May (MENA)—Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, the former Yemeni prime minister who was recently appointed prime minister of the South after it declared secession, arrived in Cairo tonight on a visit to Egypt as part of a tour of Arab countries.

In an arrival statement al-'Attas said he hoped to meet President Husni Mubarak tomorrow, Thursday. He said: I wish to take this opportunity to express my deep thanks to Egypt and its president for all the efforts to remove Yemen from this crisis.

He said that Egypt always plays a pioneering role in our Arab homeland and noted that during his visit to Cairo he will discuss the situation in Yemen, the war there, and the importance of stopping it as soon as possible.

Al-'Attas added that these topics will be discussed with Egyptian officials. He said he believed that they are fully informed of all the events in Yemen. He noted that various countries' recognition of the South of Yemen will be the topic of discussion during his talks.

Fired Yemeni Envoy Shuts Cairo Embassy

NC2505113894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1040 GMT 25 May 94

[Excerpt] Cairo, 25 May (MENA)—The impact of the ongoing battles between North and South Yemen has reached the Yemeni Embassy in Cairo. Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah issued a decree relieving Yemen's Ambassador in Cairo 'Abd-al-Jalil Ghilan, a southerner, of his post and recalling him to Sanaa, appointing Ambassador 'Abd-al-Malik Sa'id, a northerner, in his place.

Ghilan closed the embassy's electronic doors this morning, prevented staff from entering to assume their duties, and took refuge in his residence on the upper floor of the embassy building. The employees assembled in front of the building, causing a traffic jam on Amin al-Rafi'i Street in the al-Misahah area of al-Dukki. A police force imposed tight security around the embassy.

A security source has stated that the goal of these security measures is to protect the embassy against storming operations or riots.

Muhammad Fayid, a diplomatic attache at the embassy, told MENA that work was supposed to be resumed in the embassy this morning according to official instructions, which granted employees a four-day holiday for 'Id al-Adha. But he was surprised to find the embassy closed.

Fayid said he learned that former Ambassador 'Abd-al-Jalil Ghilan, who, as he put it, was recalled by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, grabbed the embassy keys from the inside guard and threw him out. Hence, he added, the embassy staff and diplomats were unable to enter to perform their duties and render services to the members of the Yemeni community in Egypt or to the Egyptians.

Fayid commended the Egyptian efforts to resolve the Yemeni crisis and President Mubarak's appeal for a cease-fire. He said that Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih responded to that appeal and accepted a cease-fire. But the southern leaders' decision to break away led the situation to explode, he said. He denied a separation of North and South Yemen, describing events as "a mutiny" by a group of renegades and affirming that the entire Yemeni people support unity. [passage omitted]

Weekly Publishes Medical Report on Lawyer's Death

NC2505174094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 25 May (MENA)—The 26 May issue of AL-MUSAWWAR reveals the true causes of death of lawyer 'Abd-al-Harith Muhammad Madani, a member of the banned Muslim Brotherhood group.

Chief Editor Makram Muhammad Ahmad published a copy of the medical report on Madani's death. The report said: An examination of the body of 'Abd-al-Harith Muhammad Madani has revealed that he died of an acute collapse [hubut had] of the respiratory system and a failure of his lung capacity resulting from acute asthma. No traces of injuries or visible fractures or bruises were found on the body.

Dr. Suhayr 'Abd-al-Fattah, who conducted the examination of the deceased lawyer's body, stressed to Makram Muhammad Ahmad in a telephone interview that her signature on the medical report reflects the true reasons and accounts leading to Madani's death. She expressed concern about seeing her statement published for fear that she "may be a target of the terrorist groups," as she told AL-MUSAWWAR's chief editor. She added: I have a father whose medical condition cannot tolerate the state of anxiety he is going through out of concern for my life.

In his editorial, Ahmad says that after being arrested in his office in al-Haram neighborhood, Madani was being taken to his home in the Warraq al-'Arab district of al-Jizah to be searched when he experienced acute difficulty in breathing with convulsions and then fainted. The accompanying officer radioed his superiors to inform them of the situation. Their answer was: There is no need to go to Warraq al-'Arab. Take him immediately to al-Manyal Hospital for treatment. If necessary, put him in the detainees' ward for treatment.

Ahmad emphasized that the internists made tremendous efforts to save Madani's life, but he took his last breath at 1400 on 27 April; that is, 24 hours after being admitted to the hospital.

Lawyer's Link to Islamic Group Explained

NC2505200694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1515 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 25 May (MENA)—New facts have surfaced regarding the death of Egyptian lawyer 'Abd-al-Harith Madani on 25 April and his role in the outlawed terrorist organization, the Islamic Group, in Isna, Qina Governorate. This led to his arrest. He then suffered an asthma attack, and after 24 hours at the al-Manyal Hospital the doctors failed to save his life.

AL-AHRAM Chief Editor Ibrahim Nafi' has published a full report on the true circumstances surrounding the death of the lawyer, who was in charge of financing the terrorist organization. The report also includes what occurred at the Lawyers Association with members of the Muslim Brotherhood, which controls that association. Nafi' notes that the story began when security men captured terrorist elements after several successive and highly planned operations to strike at the dens of terrorism. Some important organizational documents were seized along with these terrorists, who gave detailed confessions. Several facts, obtained from full confessions, surfaced in connection with these cases, particularly State Security Case 235/94, which is related to the so-called military wing of the Islamic Group and to the terrorist acts committed by members of this group. Nafi' added that the confessions revealed the following:

1. 'Abd-al-Harith Madani acted as the direct link to Tal'at Muhammad Yasin Hammam, the organization's leader who died on 25 April in a shoot out with security men sent to capture him.

2. Upon instructions from the organization's leader, Madani acted as a liaison officer, conveying the orders of the organization's leaders outside prison to leaders inside prison.

3. Madani was in charge of financing the organization by distributing money received from abroad for Tal'at Hammam, the leader of the organization. According to the defendants' confessions, Madani received seven payments from Hammam amounting to 45,000 Egyptian pounds as well as $3,000, which he spent on the organization's activities on the instructions of its leader.

Nafi' adds: Those were the actual facts that emerged from the confessions made by the recently captured terrorist elements. Had some of the leaders of instigation been fair, they would have reflected on these facts as they really are without any bias. What is certain from the investigations is that Madani was a terrorist affiliated with the Islamic Group in Isna, Qina Governorate. He had been previously charged in several cases, including Case 7 in the year 1990, when he, along with other members of the organization, prevented people from visiting graveyards, claiming it was sinful to do so. He was also charged in another case in Isna for distributing leaflets.

Nafi' adds: Here we have a prominent member of a terrorist organization that kills and assassinates innocent citizens, in violation of law and public order. Here is a member of an organization that permits the killing of people and the plundering of their property, in violation of the provisions and ethics of religion. What is more serious is that he used his job as an attorney defending law, freedom, and stability as a cover to undermine the law and shake the stability.

Observers point out that the events that took place at the Lawyers Association last week, which had been instigated by the banned Muslim Brotherhood, reveal extremely serious matters, including:

1. Some of the people who have led the acts of instigation and agitation belong to a dissolved political group that seeks to use the death of the aforementioned lawyer and its leadership of the association as an opportunity to promote its political goals, which run counter to the regime and to legitimacy, and to gain popularity among lawyers so that they may back its candidates in future elections.

2. The deceased lawyer was a member of a terrorist organization, the Islamic Group, who had been charged before in several cases. The attempt to take advantage of his death reveals the relationship between the dissolved group and other terrorist groups.

3. These outlawed terrorist groups are trying to use the professional associations as an arena for their unlawful partisan activity.

4. Other extremist and irresponsible elements have attempted to incite lawyers to carry arms against the legitimacy and its representatives.

5. The special relation between members of the terrorist groups and the outlawed and dissolved Muslim Brotherhood group has been confirmed by a statement issued by one of the groups that falsely calls itself Islamic, in which it incited strikes, demonstrations, and sabotage.

Nafi' says that this trend is serious and dangerous. It tries to exploit and undermine democracy and to cause a relapse in the splendid democratic development process which is relentlessly and wisely led by President Mubarak.

Nafi' maintains that the security commands in Egypt are committed to safeguarding legitimacy, law, and the basis of democracy which have been established by the president. These commands have accomplished tremendous achievements by all standards. They penetrated the secrecy of these organizations through scientific planning and through proficiency and the ability to move quickly.

He adds that security commands managed to descend on some terrorist leaders and seize a map detailing the locations, duties, and responsibilities of various terrorist elements as well as their codes and planning for future operations. It was a huge blow to the organization which made the terrorists and their sympathizers go out of their minds.

Nafi' says that 'Abd-al-Harith Madani and others were among the many elements who were captured through justice. They thought for a while that they could exploit one of the most honorable and ancient professions—the practice of law—as their slogan behind which they hide under false pretenses.

Some elements of the dissolved group are trying to play with fire, destabilize the situation, and go against legitimacy in an attempt to deprive the country of the atmosphere of development, stability, and democratic process.

In his capacity as the doyen of the Egyptian Journalists Association, Ibrahim Nafi' underlined the role of associations in defending the rights of its members as follows:

Any association is entitled, or rather duty bound, to defend the legitimate rights of its members. The association must support the member who is confronted with ordeals and crises. It is also a legitimate right to defend every member who is not under suspicion. This stance is part of the association law and is the member's rights and duties. It is also a right dictated by law and tradition, let alone if the case is linked to the application of the Bar Association and if the members are men of law and the protectors of the law.

On the other hand, there is an important fact that should not be ignored, namely that association members must not use their membership as a screen to hide illegal actions that violate the provisions of law and undermine the country's law and national security. Nobody can claim that membership can be used as immunity to violate the law or defend the violating member.

Nafi' says: I can understand that it is the right of the association to ascertain the authenticity of charges against the accused member, especially if the defendant is a member of an organization that is overtly practicing terrorism, killing innocent people, and carrying out assassinations and declaring this in its statements. I also can understand that it is the right of the association, particularly the Bar Association, to use all legal methods to defend the rights of its members and their families.

Ibrahim Nafi' adds: But what I can not understand and even reject is the adoption of illegal and illegitimate moves on the pretext of defending the right of an association member. This, I believe, would turn the association into a jungle and make the association membership a tool to support violation of law and infringement on legitimacy. This action is carried out by some elements which belong to illegitimate groups seeking to impose their hegemony and objectives by force and to foment trouble within and outside the association.

Nafi' voices his regret that some people have exploited the death of a terrorist organization member, who belonged to a vocational association, to instigate and incite trouble by issuing inflammatory statements against the law and the legitimate rule.

Nafi' concludes his article by saying that all aim to exploit the democratic climate, political tolerance, and the broad freedoms of expression. President Mubarak is committed to this democratic atmosphere regardless of the excessive and provocative acts by those who are trying to exploit legitimacy and the tolerance of the political leadership to sow discord and to drive a wedge.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Interviewed on Current Concerns

PM2505151594 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 25 May 94 p 6

[Interview with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi by unidentified correspondent in Tripoli; date not given]

[Text] [AL-HAYAH] Your Excellency, Colonel, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the revolution, 25 years on from the revolution, do you believe you have succeeded, and in what area?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] That is a traditional question which is put to me every year.

[AL-HAYAH] No, the 25th anniversary of the revolution is different...

[Al-Qadhdhafi] No. The question was put to me on the 24th, 20th, and 10th anniversaries. Of course, the event that occurred 25 years ago in Libya had been shaped and decided by us since 1959 on the basis of the philosophy for which the revolution was launched. The aim was to bring about a turning point in the history of mankind. And we are determined to bring about a new era like that of the French revolution, which initiated the era bourgeois republics. We decided that the al-Fatih [1 September] revolution would end the era of republics and launch the people's jamahiriyat [of masses]. From our serious analysis of history, we can expect results, proceeding from the available factors. This is why we announced that the era of the masses would begin, and nationalities would triumph, and that there would be a conflict among nationalities. And that the states comprised of several nationalities would break up. We expected that before the separation in Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union. And we still expect the collapse of the United States. The United States consists of a mosaic of conflicting pieces. It will not hold together in the era of the masses. The blacks will become independent, the Red Indians will become independent, the whites will become independent, and so will the other minorities. And a civil war could begin in the United States one day like in Lebanon if no American takes the initiative like Gorbachev to grant the peoples of the United States their independence, hence conducting the separation peacefully, as happened in the Soviet Union.

But to cling to the domination of Washington, the White House, the CIA, the National Security Council, and the major companies... all these are nightmares which will lead to a rebellion, and hence to bloody separation. That is, unless someone forestalls events, allowing these peoples to become independent, as happened in the Soviet Union. It is another prophecy which will come about in the future. We had said that the Soviet Union, which consisted of several nationalities, would collapse. There is now one state about which no one is talking, that is the United States. We say that the United States will break up peacefully or through war. I mean that the Libyan revolution is a revolution of a new prophecy and new vision for mankind which we cannot judge on the basis of what has happened in Libya. Its results will emerge in decades and centuries, and after generations. It will then be said that the al-Fatih revolution was the historic turning point. The early sign was the emergence of the revolution of originality, that is fundamentalism, which spread and was exploited and distorted, turning it into bullets and oppression... But at the beginning we launched this cry, namely that the south must advance toward the north, and that the fringes must advance toward the center, which should be destroyed. And that the oppressed should climb onto the stage. And that purity should begin from the desert. And that originality should be revived and whatever is alien abandoned. We announced the revolution of originality and fundamentalism. Analysts believe it was us who sparked off this revolution. The important factor for the Libyan revolution is laying the foundation for the era of the masses, that is, the establishment of people's power. There is now for the first time a state run without a government, without a president, without a king, and without a regular army. It is run through the people's committees and congresses. Whatever arrogant, ignorant, absurd, and spiteful people say to undermine that, it is an irrefutable fact, namely that Libya is the cornerstone of a new era called the era of the masses and the jamahiri system, represented in the people's congresses and the people's self-government. This is what Bakunin and Proudhon tried to achieve. Even before Marx there were philosophers like al-Razi and al-Mu'tazilah [group of Muslims applying logic] who dreamt of achieving what has just now been achieved.

[AL-HAYAH] What is preoccupying you most these days?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] At the national level, we are preoccupied with the current confrontation between a small country and a small people, that is, the Libyan people, and three major states, all of which are nuclear and Christian states. Libya is a Muslim state and they are imperialist states which have the right of veto (in the Security Council). And they have atomic bombs. Of course, we cannot ignore the fact that we are very busy with the confrontation with three oppressive, arrogant, insolent, and tyrannical states.

At the pan-Arab level, we are preoccupied with the fact that no one has torn down the raised slogan, that is, the Arabs' unconditional surrender. All that is happening, beginning with Madrid through Oslo, falls under this slogan, that is, the Arabs' unconditional surrender. Because in view of the Arab defeat, the Arab collapse, the tyranny of the Western states protecting the Israelis, and the nonexistence of the Soviet Union and the socialist camp, no negotiations will be in the Arabs' interests. In fact they will mean capitulation. It is their opportunity to impose capitulation on the Arabs. All that is being talked about—like Gaza and Jericho, land for peace, and the Golan... all this falls under the slogan that the Arabs must surrender unconditionally and immediately so that the existing balances will not be upset thereby allowing the Arabs to raise their heads.

At the international level, we are preoccupied with that international arrogance and that insolence. Because the world has turned into a jungle. But we are certain that the small animals in the jungle will fight with their claws and teeth—which means that the jungle will drown in blood because of what imperialism is doing.

[AL-HAYAH] So you are totally opposed to what the Palestinians have done so far?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] It is not like that. We are looking for a radical solution to the Palestinian issue. The only peaceful radical solution is the South African model. If they want to solve the Palestinian issue, let them follow the South African model—which means the Palestinian people's return and free elections under UN supervision for both the Palestinians and the Jews, then a democratic Palestinian state would be established. Without that there is no solution. Proof of this is that the fighting is still continuing, because Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] does not represent all the Palestinians. What we hear on the news, namely that the PLO has signed an agreement with Israel is untrue. It is not the PLO; it is Fatah. Even in Fatah there is a big split. The agreement took place with the Fatah chairman and his group. They give him Gaza and Jericho, because they fit their measure. The agreement with the PLO will be on the scale of Palestine [as a whole].

[AL-HAYAH] Did Abu-'Ammar not contact you? Did you not tell him your opinion openly?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] It is an ordinary relationship. He contacts us and sends messages to put us in the picture. But our position is clear. We support the Palestinian people's return and the recovery of their rights. We do not support the Gaza and Jericho accord.

[AL-HAYAH] What about Algeria? Is it not preoccupying you?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Of course, regrettably, France is currently taking revenge against Algeria. France and the United States are behind all that is happening in Algeria. France is backed primarily by the United States and the Israelis. The Mosad, French intelligence, and the CIA are involved in the murder, financing, training, and armament operations, so that Algeria would pay the price for its independence and rebellion against France. That is what is happening in Algeria.

[AL-HAYAH] How can you help Algeria?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] By God, that is a worry.... If the aggression was foreign, the matter would have been clear. But as long as the Algerians are fighting one another inside the country, no one can do anything except offering advice and kind words. They [not further identified] are also trying to get Egypt to pay the price for its war against the Israelis, the 'Abd-al-Nasir era, the nationalization of the Suez Canal, and its leadership of the Arab nation. Egypt is paying the price for that, because the Americans, the West, and the Israelis consider Egypt the archenemy. The Israelis want to destroy Egypt. There is a truce between Egypt and Israel, not peace. They want to exploit this truce to destroy Egypt so that it will be under Israel's heel.

[AL-HAYAH] With regard to the Libyan issue and the blockade imposed on it, how do you view the possibility of finding a solution or a way out, and do you believe that is possible?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] If the issue is to do with Lockerbie, there are solutions proposed which are very feasible and which will save face for all the parties. But if the Western states have another objective, then the attempts are improper and we would be facing a state of colonialism and insolence. And thus we should prepare ourselves for a confrontation and a war which the enemy should lose or not win. If the issue is to do with Lockerbie, it can be resolved easily in accordance with the formulas being proposed. All international organizations and the world as a whole support Libya. The three states are isolated, exposed, and lack even a fig leaf to cover their nakedness before the world with regard to the Lockerbie issue and the Libyan position. If their objective is colonialist, then in this case we are facing a new colonialist attempt and we will fight.

[AL-HAYAH] With regard to the proposed solutions, is there anything new and practical?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Of course, there is a proposal from the Arab League and from international jurists, namely that a Scottish court be sent to another country—The Hague, for example. And that the two suspects be handed over to the Arab League and then to this court under agreed UN guarantees. This is the latest solution we have heard. It is not a Libyan solution or a Libyan proposal. It is a proposal made by international jurists, espoused by the Arab League, and supported by the world as a whole.

[AL-HAYAH] What is the fate of all the weapons in your possession? Can you look after and service them? You purchased large quantities of weapons....

[Al-Qadhdhafi] It has become clear that we were not wrong when we purchased and stockpiled the weapons. Time has shown that Libya is a target for aggression. One day al-Sadat was against us, Bourguiba was against us, al-Numayri was against us, and Hissein Habre was against us. France and the United States fought alongside them in Chad and Egypt. And Niger's Kountche was against us, and U.S. fleets threatened us from the sea. And we were attacked in 1986 by the two biggest states in the world, that is the United States and Britain. Our children were killed while asleep in their homes. It has become clear that we were right when we purchased the weapons and that we were targeted by an oppressive and direct aggression, and that we were entitled to have weapons to defend ourselves. The biggest danger threatening us now is the Israelis' possession of atomic bombs and nuclear missiles with a 4,000-mile range aimed against Libya, North Africa, Sudan, and the other Arab states. It is a very serious matter. Israel has atomic weapons, and the United States and the West are refusing to talk to the Israelis about them or to deprive them of this weapon. While the United States continues to pursue Libya, Korea, Iran, and Pakistan. As for the Israelis, they are exempt from the pursuit, punishment, and questioning. They are above international law. They are above Chapter VII of the UN Charter. If the Security Council decides a punishment for Israel, the United States uses its right of veto. Actually we are faced with a very serious situation: An adversary state is exempt from punishment and from Chapter VII of the UN Charter, is above international law, and is entitled to own any weapon of mass destruction, and no one questions it about anything. They pursued us because of a pharmaceutical plant until they ascertained it was a pharmaceutical plant. Why do they not pursue the Israelis, who admit their possession of atomic bombs and who have not signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty?

[AL-HAYAH] You have helped numerous allies since the revolution erupted. Who is now with you, who has turned against you, and who has been able to help you during the blockade period?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] By God, all those we helped support us, each according to his ability. We helped numerous forces in the world. We helped people who are now presidents of republics and heads of state. The West used to say that these are terrorist camps. These terrorist camps have turned into heads of state and regular armies, like Museveni and Sam Nujoma in Namibia, or the presidents of Congo, Angola, and Mozambique... all of them had their camps in Libya. They [the West] used to call them terrorists.

[AL-HAYAH] Who has actually offered help since the blockade began?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] All peoples are sympathizing with us. But the international arrogance represented in the United States and the Western states is terrifying the world and the peoples. Nevertheless, the world as a whole is sympathizing with the Libyan people.

[AL-HAYAH] In Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's view, what is left of the Arab unity idea, especially in view of what is happening in Yemen?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Indeed what is happening in Yemen is a sinister event and gives a bad impression. Regionalism has been consolidated until regional states have replaced nations. We now hear about the Kuwaiti nation, the Tunisian nation, and the Mauritanian nation.... It is amazing for regionalism to be perpetuated among Arabs to such an extent. What we aspire to now is an Arab unity that achieves an economic unity and defense unity, and let the petty states enjoy their regimes and systems: The kingdom as a kingdom, the sultanate as a sultanate, the emirate as an emirate, and the republic as a republic. But in the end there has to be a union for the Arab nation—a union that achieves economic unity and defense unity. Even the nature of the age now does not prompt a move toward centralism, but, rather, toward localism and the grassroots.

[AL-HAYAH] So you still believe in unity?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] It is a necessity, not a triviality. Without it, there is no future for any Arab state.

[AL-HAYAH] What would you say to the Yemeni brothers?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Frankly, as a revolutionary, I am against sick stability in the Arab homeland. To me, explosions are better in order to change the stagnant situation. The Arab land is plundered and should become hot so that it will not be plundered again. As a revolutionary, I am against sick stability, futile stability. Instability is better than having an Arab state that is subservient to the West and Israel. However, as a revolutionary, I am not concerned over what is happening in Yemen.... This is from a revolutionary angle. But politically, the battle must be settled quickly in favor of Yemen's unity and without further bloodshed.

[AL-HAYAH] Are you in touch with officials there?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] We are in constant contact with them. With regard to 'Ali Salim al-Bid, he always contacts me, appealing that it is better that Yemen should not drown in war and blood. As for the brothers in the north, they say that the only solution is Aden's surrender in the name of Yemen's unity. They proceed from the premise that there is one state which has a president and a capital. I believe that what is happening in Yemen now is an internal affair, as there is no longer two states. It is an internal issue.

[AL-HAYAH] Which view do you support more?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Unity and the revolution, of course.

[AL-HAYAH] A final question regarding those describing themselves as oppositionists abroad: What would you say to them?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] I say that with the establishment of people's power, there is no room for opposition. Oppose whom? The Libyan people? So you are opposing your people and homeland. In that case, the person becomes a stray dog. That person is a stray dog when he opposes his people and his homeland. If there is a rational person who really has a political opinion, and his opinion is successful, he has the opportunity to join the people's congresses and to include his opinion on the people's congresses' agenda. If the congresses are convinced of this opinion, they will implement it. If they do not, they will discard it. If there is really a person who is useful for the homeland, the people's congresses are his opportunity. If there is a ruling party, he could say that he has no opportunity because the party is not giving the opportunity to apply his ideas. The same applies if there was a ruler ruling the country. But since the people are ruling through the people's congresses and the people's committees, it is his opportunity to join the people's congresses. I believe that it is not possible for anyone of them to oppose, because the people are the ruler. There is no possibility of opposition at all. If there are Libyans abroad, they are miserable. Most of them are businessmen. A large number of them returned, carrying catalogs and business contacts from which we have benefited. They enter and leave the country after they realized that matters are different. They laughed at the conditions they had been in. Even people who used to attack us over the radio came and laughed at their previous conditions, admitting they had been miserable and their statements were unreasonable. They told us: Forgive us, and indeed we did when they entered the country... Anyone who wants to return can return, and anyone who repents is forgiven. God accepts repentance, so shouldn't human beings do the same. Anyone who repents enters the country safely. As for anyone who does not repent, his only option is to become an agent for foreign intelligence, and this is what has happened. One escaped after stealing the people's money and another escaped to avoid military service and national service.... These cases do not represent opposition. Opposition takes place when there is colonialism in the country, when there is dictatorship or exploitation.... This is opposition. But when the people have the power, foreigners expelled, and the homeland and the people are free, what do you call those who escaped? Miserable. They are informers for U.S. intelligence. They say things against their own people and their own homeland, like hit Libya, boycott Libyan oil, or attack Libya. What does this incitement mean? It means that intelligence services tell them: say this. So they say it. They do not even merit a question being put about them.

Morocco

King Hassan Appoints New Prime Minister

LD2505205194 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] The Ministry of Information has issued the following statement: His Majesty King Hassan II, may God make him victorious, received Prime Minister Mohamed Karim Lamrani at the Royal Palace at Rabat today, Wednesday 25 May 1994. His Majesty King Hassan thanked Mr. Lamrani for his services to the country during his tenure as prime minister. His Majesty praised Lamrani's good qualities, his honesty, his trustworthiness, his integrity, and his loyalty.

Afterwards, His Majesty the King told Mr. Lamrani of his decision to relieve him of his post as prime minister.

His Majesty the King has appointed Mr. Abdellatif Filali as the replacement for Mr. Lamrani.

In accordance with the Constitution, Mr. Filali will be proposing to His Majesty a list of the new government.

Sudan

Khalifah, Delegation Return From Nairobi Talks

AB2205202694 Khartoum SUNA in French 1125 GMT 22 May 94

[Excerpts] Khartoum, 22 May (SUNA)—The government delegation to peace talks in Nairobi with the rebel factions arrived in Khartoum on Sunday [22 May] morning. Mr. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, speaker of the Transitional National Assembly [TNA] and head of the delegation to the peace talks, confirmed that the government is seriously committed to achieving a just and long-lasting peace with the rebel movement at the next round of talks, scheduled to be held on 18 July.

Mr. Khalifah told reporters upon arrival at Khartoum airport that the current round of talks was designed to discuss basic issues of the conflict, but the delay by three days of the arrival of the rebel factions prevented a detailed examination of these issues. [passage omitted] Mr. Khalifah stressed the need for contacts to continue between the government and the rebel movement, as that is the way to consolidate confidence between the two sides. [passage omitted]

Party Claims Talks 'Waste of Time'

EA2305203094 Nairobi KBC Television Network in English 1800 GMT 23 May 94

[Excerpt] One of the parties to the Sudanese conflict, the Sudanese Peoples' Liberation Movement/Sudanese Peoples' Liberation Army [SPLM/SPLA], today claimed that the suspended Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development peace talks on the Sudan were a waste of time and accused other parties attending the talks of not having faith in the peace negotiations. At a press conference in Nairobi this afternoon, the deputy leader of the SPLM/SPLA delegation to the talks, Yusuf Makki, said the Sudanese Government representatives declined to discuss any cease-fire arrangements during the week-long consultations. The faction also announced the establishment of new administrative organs to be headed by SPLM/SPLA leaders to manage the affairs of a section of the Sudan, which they referred to as new Sudan. The faction said the new Sudan, comprising five regions in southern Sudan, may in future secede from the Sudan. [passage omitted]

Government Forces Capture 'Important' Border Town

EA2505190594 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] Khartoum, 25 May (SUNA)—The Armed Forces today recaptured the town of (Pageri) in Western Equatoria State, along the Sudanese-Ugandan border.

A statement issued by the Armed Forces' general command said that the Sudanese Armed Forces routed the forces of John Garang, recaptured the town [word indistinct], which is the most important base for the Garang forces of the rebellion [word indistinct].

Split Reported in Opposition's Military Arm

PM2505102394 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 21 May 94 p 6

[Unattributed report: "New Split in Sudanese Opposition's Military Arm"]

[Excerpts] London, AL-HAYAH—A group of military members of the "Sudanese Army Military Command" organization, the military arm of the opposition Democratic National Grouping, has announced the dismissal of its leadership and the formation of a new leadership, "because the present leadership has not carried out any military action against the regime over the past five years—which has caused it to lose a great deal and prompted many people to abandon it."

A statement issued by the group and distributed in Cairo yesterday, a copy of which AL-HAYAH has received, said that the leadership of retired Lieutenant General Fathi Ahmad 'Ali, the Army's former commander in chief, "has not moved from the theorization stage to the implementation stage—which has adversely affected its performance, reputation, and status inside and outside the country. In fact it has focused primarily on political action and ignored its main duty, thus losing its credibility and status in opposition action." [passage omitted]

The officers decided to "dismiss Lt. Gen. Fathi and Major General al-Hadi Bushra (the third man in the organization) and to form a new leadership committee after consulting with the organization's offices in Europe and Britain." The breakaway group stressed that it "has nothing to do with any agreements, decisions, or statements issued by the leadership. And we stress our commitment to the principles and charter of the Democratic National Grouping" [passage omitted]

Former Premier Vows Action To Restore Democracy

NC2105181294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1710 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Khartoum, 21 May (MENA)—Former Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has criticized the present political practices in Sudan, calling for democratic elections to let the Sudanese people decide who will govern them.

In his 'Id al-Adha sermon at the al-Ansar Mosque in (?Udinbawi), Omdurman, today al-Mahdi said that the situation in Sudan is the worst it has ever been, noting that he will take serious action to restore democracy in the country.

Al-Mahdi pointed out that the government-appointed parliament does not fit into this category because it is appointed by the authority that is supposed to be accountable to it.

He criticized the government's economic policies, particularly the profit-sharing system, which he described as the most repulsive crime ever against the Sudanese economy.

The former prime minister criticized the government's management of alms and its establishment of the Alms Department, saying that most of the money is being spent on the employees of that department.

Egypt Protests Actions Against 'Interests, Property'

Egyptian Embassy Delivers Memorandum

NC2105183094 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] The Egyptian Embassy in Khartoum today delivered an official memorandum to the Sudanese Foreign Ministry protesting the actions taken by Sudanese authorities against Egyptian interests, property, and nationals in Sudan.

The memorandum calls on the Sudanese authorities to reconsider these measures to safeguard relations between the two countries and avoid the deterioration of Egyptian-Sudanese relations on bilateral and international levels.

Government Denies Seizure of Property

EA2305123094 Khartoum SUNA in English 0940 GMT 23 May 94

[Excerpts] Khartoum, 23 May (SUNA)—Director of the political department at the Foreign Ministry Dr. Anwar al-Hadi has categorically refuted the Egyptian allegations on seizure of a number of establishments affiliated to the Egyptian authorities.

Dr. al-Hadi explained in a press statement to SUNA that ownership of all the said establishments went to Sudan Government when the country became independent from the condominium rule. He underlined that some houses had been rented to Egyptians in accordance with lease contracts which had nothing to do with any other agreement, adding that terms of these contracts expired, therefore the owner of these houses and buildings—state of Khartoum—noticed the tenants to evacuate them in compliance with the legal procedure.

Dr. al-Hadi said it is sorrowful that the Egyptian authorities escalated the issue of evacuating the rented establishments to the standard of affecting the bilateral relations between Sudan and Egypt. [passage omitted]

He also said that failure of the Egyptian minister to fulfil his promise of visiting Sudan on the dates he fixed proved lack of the Egyptian Government's credibility toward purification of climate. He pointed out that contrary to their pretentions, the Egyptian authorities proved to be not serious for the unity of the Sudanese territories when they continued allowing the outlaws movement to operate from Cairo and providing it with moral support. [passage omitted]

Dr. al-Hadi added that the spirit of the Egyptian authorities in dealing with Sudan was reflecting its internal crisis.

Egyptian Envoy Summoned Over Dispute

EA2505165094 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1000 GMT 25 May 94

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 25 May (SUNA)—The Foreign Ministry yesterday summoned the Egyptian ambassador to Khartoum to convey the ministry's protest over two statements issued by the Egyptian Foreign Ministry on legal action taken by the relevant Sudanese authorities against various establishments housing Egyptian nationals in Khartoum. This move was consistent with Sudan's tenancy and leasing laws.

The ministry stressed to the Egyptian ambassador that these actions were taken within the framework of Sudan's tenancy and leasing laws and that the issue should not be misinterpreted and politicized. The ministry also emphasized that no one had been expelled, contrary to the contents of the two above-mentioned statements.

The ministry told the ambassador that the Egyptian media had treated the issue with exaggerated sensitivity and had accused the Sudanese Government of tackling the issue in a manner which went against international norms.

The ministry stressed that the Egyptian side's issuance of two different statements on the same subject, which were distorted, was inconsistent with international and diplomatic norms. [passage omitted]

Western Sahara

Interview With West Saharan President

LD2005105494 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 May 94

[Interview with President Mohamed 'Abd-al-'Aziz by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Correspondent] Mr. President, recently you attended the Madrid seminar on peace in the Western Sahara and you called for an international seminar on Western Sahara. The question being raised, Mr. President, is: What are your views on the international support for this proposal, the holding of an international seminar on Western Sahara? Do you see this peace seminar as an alternative to or as an option for the peace plan, or both?

['Abd-al-'Aziz] I would like to thank Algerian national radio's Channel 1 for following up the Saharan process to achieve freedom, self-determination, and national independence for the Saharan people. [passage omitted]

The past 21 years were characterized by war and escalation, sometimes with the Spanish and other times with the parties to the Madrid Agreement, and sometimes with the Moroccan Government This period was also characterized by attempts to achieve a settlement sometimes by direct dialogue and sometimes by dialogue through international organizations.

Since the latest development in 1988, an agreement was reached on what has become known as the international UN peace plan on Western Sahara. This peace plan aims at organizing a free and democratic referendum for the Saharan people through which they could express their wishes regarding their destiny.

The referendum will be organized and supervised by the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity. It will ask the Saharan people whether they want independence or whether they want to join the Moroccan kingdom. The voters were defined according to the Spanish census of 1974. [passage omitted]

Optimism prevailed in the region and the world. Everybody believed that everything was moving forward and that the UN plan would have a happy ending at the beginning of 1992.

However, at that time the Moroccan Government backed down on its commitments and tried, by all means, to hinder the holding of a referendum on the Saharan people's self-determination. The main obstacle erected by the Moroccan Government was an attempt to impose on the Spanish census figures more than 170,000 Moroccans as additional voters. Thus, the Moroccan Government tried to rig the referendum by replacing Saharans with Moroccans in the referendum in order to guarantee that the result would be in its favor and to impose a de facto situation for the occupation of the Western Sahara.

Since 1992 the United Nations and we have been trying to overcome the obstacles placed by the Moroccan Government. Undoubtedly, everybody knows that without the compromises put forward by Polisario in order to attain peace and the sacrifices we endured, the UN peace plan would have not been completed and the issue would have not advanced.

Everybody knows that for the sake of peace and a peaceful settlement we have accepted that an occupied people will be asked whether they want to be independent or to join the occupying country. It is usual to ask one question: Do you want independence or not?

Everybody knows that we have accepted that the referendum will be held with the presence of 65,000 Moroccan soldiers in the Western Sahara. Everybody knows that the referendum may be held with the presence of the Moroccan administration, the Moroccan police, and Moroccan settlers. Everybody also knows that this war machine, which has been forced by Morocco on the Western Sahara since 1975, will not be neutral during the election campaign or during the self-determination referendum. On the contrary, the entire war machine will be mobilized to confront and pressure the Saharan people during the referendum.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, you mentioned that the Saharan side has made compromises so that the UN peace plan can be implemented in the Western Sahara. The problem which will arise when the UN peace plan is implemented is the question of voters. Has the question of the voters been resolved yet and is it the only obstacle in the implementation of the peace plan?

['Abd-al-'Aziz] No, the issue has not been resolved. The peace plan states that the Spanish census is to be the basis for vote counting. The Moroccan Government wants to add to the Spanish census 170,000 Moroccans who have nothing to do with the Spanish census or with the Western Sahara. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Will there be a compromise between the Sahara's 1974 census and the Moroccan census?

['Abd-al-'Aziz] The UN secretary-general presented a so-called compromise, which consists of five criteria, described as identification criteria. We have no problem with three of them because they are linked with the Spanish census. But we have expressed reservations over two of these criteria because they are the criteria of clan affiliation and of verbal testimony. If we adopt these criteria we will allow the Moroccan Government to bring in people as it wishes. Subsequently, these two criteria would allow the entire Arab Maghreb population or the entire Arab Maghreb to participate in this referendum if we adopted these criteria.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, can we go back to the point mentioned earlier. You attended the Madrid seminar on peace and called for an international conference on Western Sahara. Do you have high hopes for this international conference? How do you view international support for holding such a seminar? How do you see the the UN peace plan?

['Abd-al-'Aziz] [passage omitted] In our view, an international seminar at this time and with those parties could overcome the obstacles confronting the peace process. The seminar could be a framework for dialogue to find a solution for the problems hindering implementation of the peace plan.

Therefore, as far as we are concerned, the seminar is not an alternative to the peace plan, rather it would facilitate implementation of the peace plan in an attempt to find a solution to the problems confronting it.

We have high hopes that the seminar, the initiative, and the call will be received positively by the various parties interested in peace in the Western Sahara.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, the United Nations suggested three options for settling the Saharan issue. Since then, nothing new has appeared on the implementation of these three options. What is your position on the three options, and what do see as an alternative to them?

['Abd-al-'Aziz] The question of the options was not that of a Security Council resolution, but that of a report which the [UN] secretary-general submitted last March to the Security Council which included these three options. In the end, the Security Council chose the middle option, and this is the Security Council's resolution. This option became clear in that the identification commission should start its fieldwork for registering and sorting the voters in the field and submit its findings to the Security Council in the middle of next July.

Some sort of progress has been achieved, and we hope it will develop. We welcomed the commission and started cooperating with it in the field. It opened its offices in the refugee camps; it also opened offices in the occupied territories; it opened offices in neighboring countries and started the registration. We shall submit to the identification commission on 15 May [as heard] the applications on which the voters' names and their identities are recorded. It is expected that this will end at the beginning of June when the identification commission starts its work, that is, the commission, the two parties to the conflict, the OAU, and the two observer countries—Algeria and Mauritania. Delegations will be formed from all these sides, and will receive the individuals to determine their identity, starting from the applications which we would have submitted on 15 May.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, are we to understand that there is progress in connection with determining the identity of the voters, and that the time is close for deciding on this issue?

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Yes, we have encouraged the commission, which started its work. This is considered as a new element in the development of the issue in the field. We shall judge the commission's work, its impartiality, and its ability to resolve an existing political problem through technical work between now and the end of its work. In fact, the information available to us is that the commission is now facing problems with the Moroccan Government and that the Moroccan Government is maneuvering over the commission's work and exercising pressure on the commission. We hope that progress will be achieved to bring closer the referendum date through the work which the commission is now carrying out.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, you said a short while ago that the Moroccan Government is exerting pressure. There is another kind of pressure which is even worse and which is manifested by the fact that Morocco recently redrew the administrative borders of some Saharan areas and started to sieze more territory and installed governors in these areas. How do you view these developments, which will, of course, hinder the course of peace? Do they mean that Morocco, at least at this stage, does not want peace?

['Abd-al-'Aziz] In fact, all the stands and actions taken by the Moroccan Government since the adoption of the international peace plan contradict the text and the spirit of the UN peace plan. In addition to what I mentioned regarding Morocco adding further lists of Moroccans and its attempts to impose those lists on the United Nations, there are other acts such as the organizing [by Morocco] of legislative and local elections in Western Sahara, the administrative division introduced in Western Sahara by the Moroccan Government at the beginning of this year, and the appointment of Moroccan governors in Saharan regions. This is all happening while the Moroccan Government is required to facilitate the organizing of the referendum on self-determination for the Saharan people to decide on the final destiny of the Western Sahara.

All these acts demonstrate that the Kingdom of Morocco so far does not have the political will for a just and permanent peaceful settlement based on the right of the Saharan people to self-determination in accordance with international legitimacy and the UN and OAU resolutions. Furthermore, the Moroccan Government tries to take advantage of the regional and international circumstances in order to evade its obligations and what it agreed to in 1991 in connection with the organizing of a free and democratic self-determination referendum for the Saharan people.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, these actions by Morocco and its lack of political will for a settlement of the Saharan problem have caused some Saharan officials to waver between optimism and pessimism, some even went so far as to state that they expect the war to break out again in the Western Sahara. How do you view this?

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Of course, as I said, we will do our best not to lose the chance of peace and to see that the UN peace plan—which is, in fact, a gain for the people of this region including the Moroccan people—is not destroyed and lost. We are trying to make the peace plan achieve the goal of organizing a referendum in Western Sahara.

Of course, we are not on our own; there is the other party, and if there is a common will to achieve this goal, things will improve and progress will be made. But if our will for peace faces a Moroccan will trying to impose the status quo of occupation on Western Sahara, our will for peace will definitely fail and we will be forced into another status quo, that is, going back to war and struggle.

Of course we want peace, a peace needed by the Saharan people, the Moroccan people, and the people of the region. The modern world calls for peace and direct dialogue between the parties to conflicts everywhere in the world, and we are following this style and this course, but our will for peace and for a free and democratic dialogue in order to reach a solution based on respect for our people's desire for freedom and independence is equal to nothing else apart from our readiness to defend our legitimate national rights to freedom and self-determination. If we are forced into war again, we will be ready to fight it.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, you said a short while ago that the Saharan officials are working for peace. This is proved by the actions of the Saharan officials, led by your excellency, such as the recent visit to Washington where you met with American officials. We know that the United States is a member of the Security Council and, as a superpower, has a say in the Saharan issue. How did you find the American officials? What do they think and what is their stand regarding the Saharan issue?

['Abd-al-'Aziz] It is undoubtedly clear to all that the Saharan issue was not well-known at international level. Furthermore, the Americans listened for a long time only to the Moroccan thesis and argument. However, we noticed that since ratification of the international peace plan [as heard], the U.S. stand has become positive on the whole. The United States will continue (?financing) the international peace plan. The United States did not hesitate to send its officers, soldiers, and officials to Western Saharan at the request of the United Nations.

During our visit to the United States, our interlocutors at the House of Representatives, the Senate, the Administration, and all groups with which we had talks showed a considerable level of understanding, particularly when [they realize that] the Saharan request consists in holding a free and democratic referendum through which the Saharan people will say what they want. We found that the Americans were sensitive to this issue and that they well understand our ideas and our request. We can truly say that on the whole the American stand is positive.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, one last question. In light of the facts, the new developments, and the current international situation, and according to the information you have about the peace process in Western Sahara, can we say that the settlement of the Saharan problem is going to happen soon or not?

['Abd-al-'Aziz] My wish is that it will happen soon. As far as we are concerned, we must start action on the ground to hold the referendum as soon as possible. I think that this is the wish of the international community, too. The means appropriate to carrying out the referendum has been created, but the Moroccan stand expressed on all occasions and on the ground does not augur well. So far, any actions and any constructive initiatives aimed at proceeding forward on the path of implementing the peace plan and holding the referendum have been met with the conspiracies of the Moroccan Government and its attempts to make initiatives fail. It led to the failure of the Elayoune meeting to settle pending issues, and the New York meeting. All of these initiatives were thwarted by the Moroccan Government. Even now, we still doubt the Moroccan Government's desire for peace and its respect for international law. The Moroccan position leaves us doubting that the referendum will take place very soon. Therefore, we are cautious in our dealings; sometimes we make fresh initiatives and other times we accept compromises. But we have not seen anything in the Moroccan position which is encouraging, nor have we felt that there is a sincere intention on its part.

Therefore, seizing the opportunity offered by this interviewed with your radio station, I would like to address the world community with an urgent appeal to all peace- and freedom-loving people to bring the necessary pressure to bear on the Moroccan Government to comply with international laws and to implement its commitment under the peace plan on the Saharan people's self-determination.

United Arab Emirates

Zayid Receives Phone Call From 'President' al-Bid

JN2405124494 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1140 GMT 24 May 94

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 24 May (WAKH)—United Arab Emirates [UAE] President His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan has said he hopes that Yemen will overcome the critical circumstances it is currently experiencing.

The Emirates News Agency today said that during a telephone call received from President 'Ali Salim al-Bid, the UAE president stressed that the UAE is eager to exert sincere efforts to contain the situation and [word indistinct] good offices to stop the bloodshed in Yemen.

His highness called on President 'Ali Salim al-Bid to place the interest of Yemen and its people at the top of the priorities [words indistinct] support him without any hesitation and wisdom to stop this catatstrophe.

For his part, President 'Ali Salim al-Bid expressed appreciation for the UAE president's stand and concern for the security and stability of Yemen. President al-Bid briefed the UAE president on the latest developments in the Yemeni arena.

Zayid Renews Appeal to Salih To End Fighting

JN2505072194 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0620 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 24 May (WAKH)—United Arab Emirates [UAE] President His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan has received a phone call [word indistinct] from Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

The Emirates News Agency said discussions dealt with current developments and the bloody confrontation between brothers in Yemen.

Shaykh Zayid renewed his appeal to the Yemeni president to immediately stop fighting and avoid further shedding of Yemeni blood because what is going on is a disaster [words indistinct] Yemeni people who are suffering destruction to their property and national achievements.

His highness said that he is pained and saddened for every drop of Arab blood shed anywhere in the Arab world. He called for resorting to reason and logic, and for giving priority to the interests of Yemen and the Yemeni people.

His highness emphasized that the use of force will not lead to unity, and unity cannot be imposed by weapons but through understanding and agreement between the parties because the language of force and military means to resolve differences are rejected and do not serve sisterly Yemen.

Yemen's al-Ahmar Arrives on Two-Day Visit

JN2605061194 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Brother Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, [Yemeni] House of Representatives speaker, arrived in Abu Dhabi last night heading a delegation on a two-day visit to the sisterly United Arab Emirates [UAE].

He was received on arrival at Abu Dhabi Airport by His Excellency al-Hajj Bin-'Abdallah (al-Muhaydi), chairman of the Federal National Council, a number of UAE officials, and brother Muhammad Hatim al-Khawi, our country's ambassador to the UAE.

Yemen

Salih Attends National Symposium in Sanaa

Meets Party, Public Figures

JN2505134994 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, today met with leaders of political parties and organizations; unions; professional associations; and popular, creative, and professional organizations; and with shaykhs, ulemas, and representatives of the youth, women, and all national forces and figures in the entire Yemeni homeland.

He delivered an important national speech which touched on developments on the national arena. He urged everyone to stick together in a single front to defend unity and Constitutional legitimacy and pool efforts to build the new Yemen under the banner of unity and democracy.

Delivers Address at Symposium

JN2605094494 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0434 GMT 26 May 94

[Speech by 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, at "an expanded symposium" of "leaders of political organizations and trade unions and mass organizations" in Sanaa on 25 May—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. May God's peace and blessings be upon his esteemed prophet. Brother citizens, ulema, intellectuals, trade union members. I again congratulate you on 'Id al-Adha and the fourth anniversary of the Yemeni unity. [applause] Yemen is passing through a serious and important turning point. We had never expected these developments to occur under the banner of unity and democracy on which our people pinned great hopes. Our people hoped that the realization of unity would bring security, stability, and peace and would allow free opinions and ensure human rights, and bury the partition of the past with all its characteristics and dimensions. They hoped that Yemen of the 22d of May would be established with the cohesion of all the good men in the Yemeni arena. That was the hope of all of us and of all the good and nationalist Yemenis. We greatly welcomed the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] leadership's sharing and participation in all components of power. Many political force in Yemen were shunned in order to give the YSP leadership this opportunity.

We warned many political and nationalist forces that the political approach expounded by the traitor and incorrigible criminal al-Bid, who was regarded by every [word indistinct] to be brought up by their own intelligence organs. He has been under suspicion from the beginning. Many elements were misled by agent al-Bid's treasonous political approach. Al-Bid admitted his treason and agentry in front of many YSP leaderships.

We have known united Yemen since we came to this earth. Partition was always in the minds of certain leaderships but the Yemeni people have always been united in their belief, principles, and territory. This is proven by the fact that when the 26 September and 14 October revolutions began, the fighters from all parts of Yemen entered the same trench and in the same ranks to defend the revolution, in the north and in the city of Aden and in (?the governorates) and in all parts of the republic, and in order to expel the British colonialists. The partition was in the minds of certain leaderships. The Yemeni people never wanted partition.

'Ali Salim al-Bid and his treacherous clique longed to go back to the partition. In our political approach, we attempted to explain this to certain political forces and they simply believed that this was merely within the political endeavors that each one undertook to win the sympathy of others, and not that this individual longed for partition. He never believed in unity and did not come to unity out of conviction but came to unity within certain political and international circumstances, especially after the fall of the socialist bloc. He came to unity with grudges, keeping all the state's equipment and property in the southern part of the homeland. He kept in his own accounts both the cash belonging to government establishments and departments as well as the weapons, ammunition, and equipment. The traitor al-Bid kept them and never gave them to the state authorities.

During our talks with al-Bid, we asked him: Why don't you deliver these vehicles and equipment? He said: In fact this is party property. We said: This party is a state and not a political party in a showroom. You are a state and a party. This is state property. He placed all the funds of the government's establishments and bodies in private accounts. He never earned the state one single dinar. He left a debt of $4 billion. If we look for these billions, we will find them in [words indistinct] or in private accounts for some of the secessionist leaderships under 'Ali Salim al-Bid, who does not hide his agentry and treason.

He began the crisis with his return to Aden on 19 August. We told the brothers in the leadership and in the party leaderships that al-Bid's return is undeclared secession. They said let us hold a dialogue. We invited the leaderships of mass organizations and parties and told them this is undeclared secession. They said let there be dialogue. We said let the political parties and organizations take part. We went on with this dialogue, which we called the dialogue of the deaf. This dialogue was in the interest of the YSP in the hope that results would be realized that would avert what we have today. This dialogue was held between Sanaa and Aden. This was one of the mistakes. The political forces did not realize that the capital was Sanaa. We should have held the dialogue in the capital. This does not mean that we belittle the trade and economic capital, Aden, which is the capital of all of us, but in order to make the other party submit and recognize the unity. If it was unionist, then let it come to the capital. However, we continued to move between Sanaa and Aden in the hope that we could reach results to avert what we have today.

Then came the Pledge and Accord Document. It was signed. Then he asked that we move to Amman. We said we can ratify it in one of the Yemeni capitals but he refused and said that we must go to Amman. Then we went and signed the document. He said that the other parties of the coalition should not sign it as partners but that the nationalist forces should participate and we said let that be. We said that we hoped the political forces would help preserve the coalition in order to save the homeland from the crisis. We then went to fraternal Jordan in a mammoth delegation.

Now we are offering many martyrs, the best of our sons, not for the love of power and not for raising the slogans of a victory by this party over that party. We are offering them in the name of the Yemeni people with their various political and nationalist organizations and forces with the aim of affirming the Yemeni unity. [applause] We will offer many martyrs for the unity of the land and people of Yemen. We are prepared to offer everything that is dear to us for the sake of unity. Not for triumphing over the criminal al-Bid in the YSP leadership but for the triumph of the truth and so that the will of this nation might triumph over the secessionists elements.

The current war is between the clique in the YSP and the Yemeni people. The biased media try to depict the war as a war between the north and the south. This shows us that certain media are fomenting the crisis, media that are financing the crisis and the secession. They are claiming that the war is between the north and the south, that a unity by force is impossible.

We were united out of our own free will. We have been united by a free, nationalist will and not by the will of the leaderships in the General People's Congress, the Reform Grouping, the Ba'th Party, the Nasirite Party, or the other political parties. It is the will of a nation. It was the people's will that forced everybody to realize unity. The unity has been realized.

Now the foreign media say that unity cannot be realized by force, that unity cannot be forced on the secessionist elements. I would like to discuss this issue clearly. Who is fighting at the front? Those who are fighting are the sons of Shabwah, Hadhramaut, al-Mahrah, Abyan, Lahij, and Aden. [applause] There are 11 military brigades with various kinds of weapons from the sons of Lahij, Abyan, al-'Awaliq, Shabwah, Hadhramaut, and al-Mahrah who are fighting in the front lines in defense of Yemeni Unity. [unidentified man is heard shouting an indistinct slogan amid audience applause] The biased media are defending the actions of secessionist elements through international communications (?claim) that the fighting is between the north and the south. The fighting is between the Yemeni people and the secessionist elements holding sway over the YSP leadership, a limited number of criminal soldiers and a number of criminal civilians in the YSP leadership. In this hall there are a number of leaderships and symbols of the southern governorates. They are well-known leaderships.

The traitor al-Jifri, who is known for his agentry and whose mission with which he came after the declaration of the Yemeni Republic, does not represent the south. We know the tasks assigned to this traitor. The security organs found important documents in the possession of the traitor al-Jifri and the tasks which he was assigned to implement in Yemen. He has now begun his plot when the secession was declared. He has now started to reveal his cards.

Hadhramaut, the biggest territory in the republic, does not vote with 'Ali Salim al-Bid. All the people of Hadhramaut denounce their [al-Bid's] presence in al-Mukalla except certain military units which are protecting them only in al-Mukalla but not in the Hadhramaut Governorate. Shabwah is in the hands of the unionists, Abyan is in unionist hands, Lahij is in unionist hands. He has no presence in al-Mahrah. Aden is afflicted with the YSP arsenal.

We have declared amnesty for those who are accomplices to this deplorable crime and we are still giving them an opportunity before we enter Aden. The Army is clamping a siege around Aden but it does not have the political decision to enter Aden in order to give an opportunity for those who claim to be unionists to define their position. This is also to avoid hitting civilians and [word indistinct] and to give them the opportunity to leave Aden and so that they may not be harmed. [applause] I am certain that the innocent citizens will be harmed in Aden. As for the YSP leadership, the secessionists, some of them are abroad, others went to Hadhramaut prepared on their cars [word indistinct] and the others are in readiness at the ports to leave Aden. Only innocent civilians will remain in Aden and they will [word indistinct] these coming problems.

I do not believe that a brave leader would take his plane and leave for Hadhramaut and prepare his cars to go abroad. The real leader would be the last to leave any position or trench or any [word indistinct]. This leader is at the front of the fleeing ranks. I do not consider as a leader one who is at the forefront of those fleeing.

The YSP knows him very well and we do not have to describe the traitor al-Bid. We told some of the leaders that this man is schizophrenic. They would say: Oh no, this president [Salih] is unjust, he does not want any voice besides his voice.

This is a madman, I [word indistinct] stayed with him for four years. They said the president does not want any voice other than his. It is all the same.

He is a demented, unbalanced person. The YSP is aware of this. from Qahtan to the last of them. This man can live only in a showroom. [word indistinct] used to appoint him a minister for six or seven months. He differed with his boss and escaped to Hadhramaut. He had some cars and he sold them. The leadership knows him. [Words indistinct] brother 'Ali (?Sani') is (?facing) the situation more than me or you. This is because they oppressed the people. They did not do this by force of political approach. They created means of oppression and terror.

Brother leaders of political organizations and parties, I highly appreciate your excellent stand in these difficult conditions. I call on all to effect national cohesion and to set aside all trivialities. I ask you to avoid all the negative aspects of the past within the framework of the party and political pluralism which have appeared rather suddenly now. We were not held to account for our political utterances. We must be held to account for this. We must benefit from freedom and political pluralism. This is a good phenomenon and must be preserved. We will deal with this, benefiting from the past and from our setbacks. Together we move to preserve the homeland's unity. In one trench we will all stand to defend Yemeni unity. [applause]

It is true that our resources and our people's resources are thin at this time compared with the funds which were taken by the leaders dominating the YSP, but with our meager resources victory will be on our side and the side of the nationalists. God will not grant success to this plot and nothing will result from it. Any funds a man takes from outside the country to implement a plot will not make him successful. Never. The will of men and the principles and firm values of sincere men will triumph. Right and not wrong will triumph. [applause]

We hope that all the nationalist and party leaderships will continue to be cohesive and united to face this secessionist danger. We will work together on the battle front and on the political front and on all levels. Jihad does not only mean fighting the battle. We can all perform jihad: at the mosque and in all parts and areas of the country there is a form of jihad to preserve Yemeni unity. Even though we offer martyrs and sacrifices, it is worth it. It is worth the high price we are going to pay. There is no price higher than the blood which is being shed.

I would like to end my speech and give the political parties and leaderships the opportunity, so that we will emerge from this meeting with a united concept without instructions imposed from this rostrum. I hope the leaderships of the parties and social figures will come out with a unified national stand in the supreme national interests. I wish this meeting success. May God's blessings be upon you.

Symposium Emphasizes Allegiance

JN2605045094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] The expanded national symposium attended by the leaderships of political parties and organizations, trade unions and mass and professional organizations; tribal chiefs and ulema; social figures, intellectuals and youth representatives; and all national forces and personages in all parts of the Yemeni homeland, ended in Sanaa last night.

The symposium issued a statement saying that the national symposium's pledge of allegiance to brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, is a sincere pledge for the command of the battle for unity, for confronting secession, and for the march toward entrenching security and stability, and building a united Yemen which rejects partition, fragmentation, and the relinquishment of any inch of its territory—the Yemen of brotherhood, tolerance, and love. The symposium reiterated absolute condemnation and complete rejection of al-Bid's secessionist declaration and emphasized confrontation of the secessionists led by the traitor of the homeland, revolution, and nation, 'Ali Salim al-Bid.

The statement appealed to the Socialist Party leadership, cadres, and broad base which believe in unity and the homeland, to move fast and align with people's masses and political and national forces to face the threat and protect unity and constitutional legitimacy, and bury the crime of secession for ever.

The statement warned all states and regional and international organizations of the danger of dealing with the secessionist clique and said that the entire Yemeni people will regard such dealing as a flagrant hostile act against every Yemeni citizen and an interference in the internal affairs of the Republic of Yemen. The statement appealed to our Arab brothers and friends in the world, and all good men to rally round the Yemeni people, unity, progress, and stability.

Salih Chairs Commanders Meeting; Hadi Attends

JN2505134794 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, last night chaired a meeting of the Defense Ministry leadership. The meeting was attended by Defense Minister Brigadier General 'Abd-Rabbuh Mansur Hadi and Brigadier General 'Abd-al-Malik al-Sayyani, chief of the General Staff.

The conferees discussed a number of developments in the national arena, issues of concern to our Armed Forces, and the tasks assigned to them at this important phase in the life of our people and homeland in light of the all-out war declared by the war criminal and traitor al-Bid against the homeland, the people, and the unity, He has pushed the Armed Forces into the furnace of the bloody struggle to implement his secessionist plot and fragment the homeland.

The conferees discussed the military situation in light of the successes of our valiant Armed Forces and their defeat of the forces affiliated with the secessionist, rebellious gang in the Socialist Party leadership.

The brother supreme commander expressed appreciation for the efforts of the Defense Ministry leadership to follow up the tasks assigned to our Armed Forces to defend unity and protect legitimacy. He praised the heroic performance of the hero officers, NCO's, and soldiers of our Armed Forces in the confrontation of the gang of the secessionist, rebellious gang in order to abort its destructive, scheme.

Further on Meeting With Commanders

JN2505191694 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, last night chaired a meeting of the Defense Ministry leadership. The meeting was attended by Defense Minister Brigadier General 'Abd-Rabbuh Mansur Hadi and Brigadier General 'Abd-al-Malik al-Sayyani, chief of the General Staff.

The conferees discussed a number of developments in the national arena, issues of concern to our Armed Forces, and the tasks assigned to them at this important phase in the life of our people and homeland in light of the all-out war declared by the war criminal and traitor al-Bid against the homeland, the people, and the unity, He has pushed the Armed Forces into the furnace of the bloody struggle to implement his secessionist plot and fragment the homeland.

The conferees discussed the military situation in light of the successes of our valiant Armed Forces and their defeat of the forces affiliated with the secessionist, rebellious gang in the Socialist Party leadership.

The brother supreme commander expressed appreciation for the efforts of the Defense Ministry leadership to follow up the tasks assigned to our Armed Forces to defend unity and protect legitimacy. He praised the heroic performance of the hero officers, NCO's, and

soldiers of our Armed Forces in the confrontation of the gang of the secessionist, rebellious gang in order to abort its destructive, scheme.

The brother president and the supreme commander stressed that our Armed Forces are offering more sacrifices for the sake of safeguarding unity just as they have offered dear sacrifices and were at the head of the defenders of the Yemeni revolutions of 26 September and 14 October, the Republic [words indistinct]. He also praised our Yemeni people's great support for their Armed Forces while they are performing their sacred duty to triumph for the people's will, unity, and democracy. He added that this great cohesion among the masses of our Yemeni people and our valiant Armed Forces, and their creative response to all the efforts being exerted in the battle of defending the unity and protecting Constitutional legitimacy, constitute the actual embodiment of the high national spirit and awareness of the significance of the unity in the life of the people and the homeland as a great value, especially since it constitutes the strategic objective for the sake of which our people have waged a long struggle throughout the entire homeland. He added that this objective was the fruit of dear sacrifices. He said that based on awareness, we are ready to offer more sacrifices for the sake of unity and for keeping the flag of unity fluttering high over all the Yemeni homeland.

He stressed that our valiant Armed Forces will never allow the gang of rebellion and secession to peddle its secessionist scheme and sick dreams. They will teach this criminal gang enough lessons and throw it into the trash can of history, which is the destiny of every traitor.

The brother president urged the Defense Ministry leadership to take care of the brother officers, NCO's, and soldiers who were misguided by the secessionist gang, and who later joined their brothers and colleagues in the Armed Forces, after facts became clear and all veils dropped from the faces of the secessionist rebels who sought to foment sedition in the homeland and to push the sons of the Armed Forces and the comrades-in-arms into the furnace of internecine fighting for the sake of achieving their selfish and personal interests.

He hailed the heroes of our Armed Forces on whom the secessionist gang wagered to stand against unity. However, they foiled its gamble, disappointed it, declared their loyalty to unity and Constitutional legitimacy, and proved the credibility of their loyalty to God, the homeland, the revolution, and unity.

The brother president and supreme commander called on the rest of the brothers who were misled by the gang of secession and rebellion to join their brothers and colleagues in the Armed Forces, and the ranks of unity and legitimacy, to benefit from the general amnesty declaration, and to seize this opportunity in order to prove their sincere nationalism, love for their homeland, and their concern for its higher interests. He noted that they will get every care and will enjoy the same rights and duties of their brothers in the Armed Forces.

The president beseeched God to have mercy on the souls of the righteous martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the sake of unity and the homeland. He said the successes achieved by our Armed Forces against the forces of apostasy and secession were the result of support from God and the masses of our people in the battle of right against falsehood, good against evil, and the battle of triumphing for unity, because it is the banner of pride, dignity, and prosperous future [words indistinct].

Defense Minister Makes Appeal to 'Misled' Forces

JN2605062394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 26 May 94

["Text" of an appeal by Defense Minister 'Abd-Rabbuh Mansur Hadi to the "misled" forces; date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Peace and blessing be upon His noble Prophet. To the misled and helpless brother officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers: O heroes of the Armed Forces—officers, NCO's, and soldiers: You have always been a symbol of national unity and a splendid example of national cohesion. You had the honor of taking the initiative to reunite the homeland. Therefore, you categorically rejected the instructions of the gangs of apostasy and secession and sided with the constitutional legitimacy, that is, with the people and the unity of the homeland. Therefore, a decree under Law No. 1 for 1994 was issued announcing a general amnesty in appreciation of these stands.

Consequently, the Defense Ministry has fixed the reception areas as follows:

1. The Aden axis. The brother officers, NCO's, and soldiers in the Aden Governorate should report to the units near their places in order to be sent to the military areas where they can perform their service.

2. The Lahij axis. The brother officers, NCO's, and soldiers should report to the units near their places in order to be sent to the military areas where they can perform their service.

3. All shall enjoy all rights and duties enjoyed by others in the Yemeni Armed Forces in accordance with the above-mentioned decree.

4. We appeal to all to respond and benefit from the sympathy and tolerance expressed by the decree toward the misled and helpless ones by joining the forces of legitimacy in order to form one unified army that fights bravely and faithfully for the sake of the people and homeland.

It is God who grants us guidance and success.

[Signed] Staff Brigadier General 'Abd-Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, minister of defense

Sanaa Said Taking U.S. Dialogue Effort 'Seriously'

JN2505184894 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1705 GMT 25 May 94

[Excerpts] An Egyptian diplomatic source in Cairo today revealed that the United States has embarked on contacts with Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates, in an attempt to end the fighting and start a dialogue between the two parties to the conflict in Yemen. The same source added that the three Arab states can ensure indirect dialogue between northern and southern Yemenis and that they have played a mediatory role since the beginning of the crisis in Yemen. The source said this mediation aimed at safeguarding Yemen unity without using force. The same source said these three Arab states will ask the northerners to agree on a cease-fire in exchange for canceling the southerners' unilateral declaration of independence.

Sanaa took this clear U.S. stand seriously. In the wake of this U.S. stand, Yemeni Planning Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani announced that the government in Sanaa is holding contacts with some Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] leaders to agree on holding a dialogue. Al-Iryani, who is close to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, added that his government is ready for a cease-fire in exchange for YSP's recognition of Yemen unity, which was declared in May 1990 and which has been abandoned by the southerners.

Al-Iryani said: Following the secession decision, we cannot deal, hold a dialogue with, or find a place in politics for YSP Secretary General 'Ali Salim al-Bid or Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, who was charged with forming the government of the new southern state.

The second factor which could have influenced the Sanaa decision is Aden's reiteration today that the southern forces have regained the combat initiative from northern forces that had infiltrated over the past three weeks of the fighting. [passage omitted]

'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, who reiterated the northern forces' control over Abyan, Lahij, and Shabwah Governorates, today admitted that the objective of entering Aden by all means, which was announced by 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, no longer exists. He said: There might not be a need to enter Aden, as the political solution could be reached before this. The northern minister said the Sanaa forces are maintaining their positions on the eastern front, adding that the northern forces are now preparing supply bases before moving to the east toward Hadhramaut, where al-Bid has moved.

Scud Victims' Burial Noted; Battles Updated

NC2505115794 Paris AFP in English 1129 GMT 25 May 94

[Report by Laurence Peter]

[Excerpt] Sanaa, May 25 (AFP)—Hundreds of mourners bayed for the blood of southern leader 'Ali 'Salim al-Bid Wednesday [25 May] as they buried victims of Monday's Scud missile attack on the capital.

Crowds lined the streets here as the bodies covered in white shrouds were carried aloft on stretchers from the central mosque to the At-Tahrir (Freedom) cemetery.

"Death to 'Ali Salim al-Bid" they chanted at the cemetery gates, as the funerals of the first nine victims took place. They included three children, one of them a toddler buried next to its mother.

Officials in Sanaa said at least 13 people were killed and more than 100 injured when the missile struck a densely-populated area of the capital late Monday, destroying houses and damaging a hospital.

Meanwhile a southern military spokesman in Aden said 400 northern troops had been killed in fierce fighting around the key military base of Al-'Anad, which the south had recaptured from the north.

Fighting has raged around the base, 60 kilometres (36 miles) north of the southern stronghold of Aden, since civil war broke out on May 5 between troops loyal to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and forces headed by his southern rival al-Bid.

The base, at the gateway to the road to Aden, was seized by northern troops on May 17. There had been no confirmation or denial from Sanaa Wednesday that it had lost control.

In the capital, Monday's missile attack provoked outrage among mourners who gathered to witness the funerals.

"This is a criminal act. More rockets will increase our determination to cleanse our Yemeni land of the criminals' dirty bodies," said Husayn al-Sayaghi, a 42-year-old engineer.

At least 22 surface-to-surface missiles have been fired by southern troops into the north of Yemen since the start of hostilities. The north has also retaliated by firing missiles on Aden.

Koranic verses were chanted during the burials, as gravediggers lowered the bodies into the graves and then filled them in with stone blocks and wet clay.

They had been brought in Red Crescent vans to the central Qubbat al-Mutawakkil (Dome of the Faithful) mosque for prayers, before being taken to the cemetery.

In Aden a spokesman said that troops from the newly declared Yemeni Democratic Republic had inflicted "heavy losses on enemy troops on all the war fronts."

Witnesses said northern troops had kept up the pressure on southern troops deployed around Aden in a bid to defend the city from a northern advance.

A southern spokesman said in Kharaz Bab el-Mandeb, west of Aden, "all enemy units had been wiped out" by troops, while in Abyan in the east of Aden "hundreds of northern troops had been killed or wounded" in a southern counter-offensive.

Fighting was still reported in the vital oil-rich province of Shabwah. [passage omitted]

Al-Bid: Military Situation 'Unstable and Fluid'

NC2405202394 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 May 94

[Report by Muhammad 'Abd-al-Hadi from Aden]

[Text] 'Ali Salim al-Bid, chairman of the Presidential Council of the Democratic Republic of Yemen, speaking at a news conference in al-Mukalla in the Hadhramaut Governorate, said that the current military situation in Yemen is unstable and fluid.

[Begin al-Bid recording] Al-'Anad... [pauses] We are now around al-'Anad and Jibah. We have been in and out of them for a few days now. The north will not be able to achieve anything. We will resist. We will impose our regime and method. We will impose the Pledge and Accord Document, the document of Yemeni national consensus. [end recording]

According to Military Communique No. 25 of the southern Armed Forces in Aden, the southern troops have scored new victories on the al-'Anad-Kirsh line, regaining full control of the situation on this line, inflicting heavy losses on northern forces, and forcing them to retreat. Northern officers and soldiers have been joining the southern forces in droves.

According to a southern military source, southern troops backed with effective air support, successfully bombarded northern troops trying to break through southern defenses in Shabwah.

In Abyan, a southern military source said that southern troops are still besieging al-'Amaliqah northern troops in Zinjibar, the capital of Abyan. The source added that southern artillery, jet fighters, and navy have dealt crushing blows to the remnants of northern troops. Units of the southern commando units in Zinjibar are locked in fierce battles with remaining pockets of northern forces.

A responsible source at the Defense Ministry in Aden said that preliminary reports indicate that thousands of northern troops have been killed and that hundreds of tanks have been destroyed. The source categorically denied that the southern troops fired a missile on Sanaa last night. The source said that citizens are not a target of any military operation by southern troops.

Over the past two days, large demonstrations went out in various governorates of the republic to denounce the rocket bombardment by northern forces of a residential area in Aden two days ago. The demonstrators also expressed their joy over the creation of the Democratic Republic of Yemen.

YSP Officials' Families Reportedly Fleeing Country

JN2605065494 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] The Yemeni News Agency, SABA', has learned from reliable sources reached by telephone in Djibouti that the family of Muhammad 'Ali al-Qayrahi, one of the secessionist leaders in the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], and families of some other YSP officials, had arrived in Djibouti three days ago. The sources added that as part of the exodus from Aden to Djibouti, a Russian ship carrying a number of families, including the families of some officials implicated in the secessionist plot led by YSP rebels against legitimacy, headed by traitor 'Ali Salim al-Bid, arrived at Djibouti port yesterday. The sources said the quarters that receive and accommodate these families deliberately disembarked some ordinary passengers and families from the ship for camouflage purposes and kept the families of ranking YSP figures on the ship until darkness as a security precaution and for fear of their being identified.

The secessionist, mutinous leaders are sending their families abroad, leaving the Aden people and their families as well as the misled and helpless ones in the Armed Forces to face dangers alone and serve as human shields to secure these leaders' escape and reunion with their families after having become certain that Aden's fall is imminent and that they will fall into the hands of the forces of unity and legitimacy.

YSP Official: Al-Bid Appreciative of Mubarak's Stance

PM2505124394 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 24 May 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Faysal Makram, Iqbal 'Abdallah, Zaki Shihab, and Muhammad 'Allam: "North Preparing To Attack Hadhramaut"]

[Excerpts] Sanaa, Aden, Cairo—Neutral sources said yesterday that northern forces were continuing their pressure on southern forces, that they had already seized Shabwah Governorate, which is rich in oil, and that their next step will be to penetrate Hadhramaut Governorate, birthplace of Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] Secretary General 'Ali Salim al-Bid. [passage omitted]

Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the YSP Political Bureau, has told AL-HAYAH that meetings will be held in a few days between officials of the new state and the Egyptian Government. He pointed out that an envoy from Aden will tomorrow submit a request to join the Arab League. Al-Dali said: " 'Ali Salim al-Bid and the Yemeni people in the south are most appreciative of President Husni Mubarak's position on the Yemeni crisis," describing it as a "courageous position."

Last week Mubarak held Yemeni President 'Ali Salih responsible for the continuation of the fighting and urged him to observe an unconditional cease-fire and to initiate a dialogue. He also described the northern forces' presence in the south as "occupation." Al-Dali added: "Al-Bid would not have barked on the secession step without consulting with a number of Arab leaders. He did not name them. He interpreted the Arab silence about the the question of recognizing the state as "positive and aimed at studying the situation." He expressed his belief that "Arab recognition will take place within days." He noted that "President Mubarak, United Arab Emirates President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, and most Arab states stressed that the continuation of the war means destroying unity."

South Calls For Negotiations, Arab League Conference

EA2505203294 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] Brothers 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Ali al-Jifri, deputy chairman of the Presidential Council, and Anis Hasan Yahya, chairman of the Provisional Assembly for National Salvation, have issued a press statement to the YEMENI NEWS AGENCY, in which they said: Over recent days a number of Western and foreign media have reported on efforts to bring about a cease-fire in Yemen. Inasmuch as the institutions of state in the Democratic Republic of Yemen [DRY] are responsible for such matters, we, on the basis of the firm positions we have adopted in rejecting the war, and our decision to enter a defensive battle to foil this treacherous attack, declare to our great Yemeni people and to all local, Arab, and international quarters, that the solution to the existing crisis—which was transformed by the rulers of Sanaa into a destructive war—can only be achieved through the following:

1. A final ending of the war and the withdrawal of all attacking forces to the positions they occupied prior to 22 May 1990.

2. The immediate beginning of negotiations—without pre-conditions and under the auspices of the Arab League—this arising out of a desire to arrive at a peaceful solution within the Arab framework, so that further bloodshed and general destruction can be halted, and to prevent a resumption of fighting, thus guaranteeing peace and stability in Yemen, the Arabian Peninsula, and the Arab world.

Our position constitutes proof of our continued responsible, patriotic concern. We have mobilized for the sake of the homeland, and we have made sacrifices along this path. At this moment we continue to pay the price for rejecting the war. We are eager to stop the shedding of Yemeni blood, which is being shed with impunity and unjustly, only to serve the insane purposes of those who began this war.

Southern Official: Salih-al-Bid Meeting Possible

JN2505133594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 25 May 94

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] 'Abd-al-Ghani Makkawi, leader of the Yemeni National Grouping, has said unity cannot be imposed by the force of arms. He noted that reconciliation and dialogue are the basis for any solution in Yemen.

In an interview published by al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ today, Makkawi said the Document of Pledge and Accord remains the ideal formula to achieve stability in the country.

Makkawi, who was appointed a member of the Presidential Council in the declared Democratic Republic of Yemen, said ending the military operations hinges on the will of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, noting that these operations cannot achieve a final solution to the situation unless the northern army turns into an occupation army, which is unacceptable and out of question.

Makkawi hinted at the possibility of a meeting between President Salih and 'Ali Salim al-Bid in Paris soon. He said: If agreement is reached to avoid the negative aspects that accompanied the declaration of unity, then results will be promising.

Former South President Condemns Decision To Secede

PM2505140094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 24 May 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Ibrahim Humaydi: " 'Ali Nasir Tells AL-HAYAH: Secession Decision Foolish"]

[Excerpts] Damascus—Former South President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad yesterday vehemently attacked 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party, for announcing secession. He described the decision as "foolish." He stressed that he had turned down an offer from al-Bid to hold the post of deputy chairman of the presidential council in the "Democratic Republic of Yemen." [passage omitted]

'Ali Nasir said that he had requested al-Bid to "abandon the decision to secede and to return to dialogue" with Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, "because secession will not solve the problem." [passage omitted]

'Ali Nasir still believes that the "Pledge and Accord Document" signed in Amman in February "represents a base for solving all problems and contains comprehensive solutions to the crisis." He added that my return to Yemen "in these conditions is not my current concern. My concern is to bring an end to the fighting."

Cites 'Initiative' To End Crisis

NC2605060194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2235 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] Damascus, 25 May (MENA)—Former Yemeni President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad has praised the efforts exerted by Arab leaders, primarily President Husni Mubarak, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, and Shaykh Zayid Bin-sultan, to contain the Yemeni crisis.

Speaking to a MENA correspondent in Damascus tonight, the former Yemeni president said that he and several Yemeni figures are holding consultations to stop things deteriorating in Yemen, achieve a cease-fire, reverse the south Yemeni decision to secede, and start negotiations. The new initiative, he added, also aims to lift the siege on several Yemeni cities, preserve unity, and end the bloodshed.

Aden Reports Northern Troops Suffering Defeats

EA2505171694 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 May 94

[Military Communique No. 26, issued by the command of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Yemen; place and date not given]

[Text] Our Armed Forces have continued their heroic military operations against the forces of aggression and enmity, led by the bloody and treacherous al-Ahmar gang, since their instigation of total war against our people in the DRY. Our heroic forces were able to deliver crushing blows to enemy forces on all battlefronts in the Kharaz-bab al-Mandeb, al-'Anad-Kirsh, Abyan, and Shabwah Governorate areas.

Reports from these battlefronts indicate that our forces, which are being supported widely by the people of our young Republic, have inflicted great defeats on the oppressive enemy forces in the Abyan Governorate, inflicting heavy losses of life and material on them. Our forces there captured an infantry battalion, complete with its arms and equipment. Yesterday, our forces destroyed a number of tanks and four Katyusha rocket launching vehicles, and also captured four tanks and two Katyusha rocket launching vehicles. They inflicted heavy losses of life on the enemy on this front, with hundreds of them killed or wounded.

On the al-'Anad-Kirsh front, our forces dealt mortal blows to the forces of aggression and enmity, inflicting heavy casualties of over 200 killed and wounded. Our forces destroyed eight enemy tanks and three Katyusha rocket launching vehicles. They also captured three tanks and four enemy Katyusha rocket launching vehicles. As a result of these heavy losses, the enemy forces were forced to take flight or surrender, particularly after realizing that the al-Ahmar gang had literally thrust them into the fire from which there was no escape, except through retreat or surrender.

The morale of our forces is very high, and they will win their victory, God willing. God is great. God is great.

Issued by the command of the Armed Forces of the DRY.

North Warned Against Attacking Southern Ports

EA2505190194 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] Brother 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri, the deputy chairman of the Presidential Council, has issued a statement to the YEMENI NEWS AGENCY in Aden regarding reports by Sanaa media, which warn ships and aircraft against using the ports of the Democratic Republic of Yemen [DRY], as they are exposed to danger. He described the statement as being one of a string of lies, and as being totally unsupported by the facts. He stressed that harbors and airports in the DRY were safe.

He said: We take full responsibility for protecting ships and aircraft using these ports. The deputy chairman also stated: We are capable, with the help of almighty God, and by virtue of the power of our Naval and Air Forces, of maintaining total control of the Republic's waters and airspace.

Brother 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri warned the Sanaa regime against attempting to attack DRY ports, as a gamble of this sort would result in a decisive response. He said: Were it not but for our concern for the interests and resources of our people in the north, we would be capable of imposing a total maritime blockade on al-Hudaydah (?and al-Mukha). The brother deputy chairman of the Presidential Council warned the regime in Sanaa against exploiting our spirit of responsibility by issuing inane statements during the weak and chaotic situation that that regime is currently experiencing.

'Analysts' Cited on 'Differences' in YSP Leadership

JN2405172194 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1526 GMT 24 May 94

["Unscheduled announcement"]

[Text] Brother listeners: The fate of thousands of members and cadres of the [Yemeni] Socialist Party [YSP] in Aden is shrouded in mystery. Following the proclamation of secession in the early hours last Saturday [21 May], reports said that members of the YSP Political Bureau and the Central Committee have been under house arrest. Unconfirmed reports say that a number of those members—particularly the ministers or members of the House of Representatives—have been killed.

Political observers noted that following the declaration of secession, Aden Radio did not broadcast a congratulatory cable to al-Bid from [former defense minister] Haytham Qasim, but broadcast Haytham's letter to soldiers and officers on 'Id al-Adha. The observers interpreted this as an indication that differences have surfaced between al-Bid and Haytham. This, they added, was what prompted al-Bid to leave for al-Mukalla after 'Adnan [not further identified] helped him gain control of Aden and the radio so that al-Bid could broadcast the secession statement from Aden radio in his own voice.

The observers noted that the formation of what al-Bid called the presidential council includes names that do not exist in Aden. Consequently, such a body can never hold a session. Al-Bid's thirst for the title of president was behind the issuance of the first order appointing al-Bid as the president. He did not even find an adviser or legal scholar to draft a decision based on any constitutional or legal law.

Political analysts said anybody who has followed the reports broadcast over Aden radio since the declaration of secession will find that the newscasts have not included, over the past three days, any statements of support even from the YSP bodies to which al-Bid is affiliated. The Aden radio newscasts also show that only four people support al-Bid: Salim Jubran in al-Mukalla, Shaykh Hani (?al-Hadshi) and [name indistinct] in Aden, and a fourth person residing abroad.

The analysts added that al-Bid's choice of 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri to be his deputy shows that the two men have agreed to return the rule of shaykhdoms and sultanates to the southern and eastern governorates so that Aden will become the capital of the shaykhdoms while Hadhramaut will be the lot of [former prime minister] Haydar al-'Attas, who was the only person who assumed a leading position in the YSP despite his affiliation with a sultanate dynasty. He is also known for his affiliation with the [words indistinct] the Hadhramaut Governorate. The return to the rule of sultanates will allow al-Bid, al-'Attas, and Bin-Husaynun to impose full control over the Hadhramaut oil after ridding themselves of the rest of the group, which is linked, through marriage, with the families of these three persons. The political analysts believe that al-Bid's appointment of (?Bin-Suraynah) as Shabwah governor is evidence of this.

The political analysts ruled out the achievement of any of these goals because the way al-Bid and the separatist clique have acted has deprived them of any credibility, particularly before the sons of the southern and eastern governorates. The secession statement showed them to be a group of agents for an external party which has used them over the past four years to tarnish the image of Yemeni unity abroad and to undermine it locally through the crises and riots which they engineered.

The task of the forces of constitutional legitimacy, unity, and democracy now receives Arab and international sympathy and support.

Secession Declaration, UAE 'Recognition' Viewed

PM2505141394 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 May 94 pp 1, 4

[Reports by 'Abdallah Hammudah in London, Taj-al-Din 'Abd-al-Haqq in Abu-Dhabi, Hammud Munsir in Sanaa, and Najib Sadiq in Aden: "Al-'Attas Stresses That Declaration of Democratic Republic of Yemen Was a Foregone Conclusion Because Building of Unitary State Had Been Obstructed. The United Arab Emirates Refer to al-Bid as 'His Excellency the President'"]

[Excerpt] The official EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY yesterday referred to 'Ali Salim al-Bid, chairman of the Presidential Council in the Democratic Republic of Yemen [DRY], as "his excellency the president," an expression seen by political circles as "United Arab Emirates [UAE] media recognition of the DRY." According to informed sources in Abu-Dhabi, "the use of the expression 'his excellency the president' in reference to al-Bid was made on the instructions of political authorities."

Meanwhile, in a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, DRY Prime Minister Engineer Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas said that "the declaration of the new state was a foregone conclusion because of the situation which prevailed following the announcement of unity between the two parts of Yemen on 22 May 1990 and because of the failure to build Yemen's unitary state as a result of the insistence of the authorities in the Yemen Arab Republic on the old methods of government, until the war came to end the pending situation."

Al-'Attas emphasized that "the declaration of the DRY is a station to stop at and pause, so as to prevent matters getting out of hand and prevent expansion of the scope of the war in a manner that would lead to the emergence of new entities. It is, therefore, better to restore the pre-22 May 1990 situation and then use our brains to think about the unity march, taking into consideration matters which were ignored in the past when emotions ruled supreme and reason was totally absent."

The UAE sources said that "the media move may be an expression of extreme displeasure with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's disregard for the cease-fire appeals made by UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan frankly on more than one occasion." They added that that "may be a new way of putting pressure on Sanaa to respond and of warning it of the consequences of further escalation of the fighting to include densely populated towns."

Whereas the sources pointed out that the media recognition "might be a prelude to an official recognition of the DRY as an independent state, making the UAE the first state to recognize the new political situation in south Yemen and its declaration as an independent state," diplomatic observers noted that the EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY "avoided describing al-Bid as chairman of the DRY's Presidential Council and just gave him the protocol phrase preceding the name."

The sources also said that the UAE "was perhaps holding intensive contacts with other states to coordinate its steps with these states, although it may be the first to implement such steps."

It is worth noting that AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that there has been some kind of shift in the U.S. position away from insistence on Yemeni unity as called for by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. Furthermore, the statements made by [Egyptian Foreign Minister] 'Amr Musa at his news conference yesterday denoted a similar shift with emphasis on a cease-fire in Yemen.

The diplomatic sources said that "the UAE's recognition of the DRY may depend on the development of military operations on the ground, and if the south Yemeni forces managed to regain the initiative and stand fast in the face of the northern forces, that would not only pave the way for recognition but also for abandoning the neutral line taken on the conflict and making initiatives that would compel the intransigent party to accept mediation and good offices."

Al-'Attas said that the declaration of the southern state was "the only realistic way out in the current circumstances, placing on the shoulders of the northern leadership the responsibility of preserving a minimum degree of national unity to be developed in the future, while at the same time searching for a formula for new relations between the two Yemeni states and the states of the region to provide security, stability, and development for the entire region in the new conditions."

Asked what he thought of the position of the tribes and organizations opposed to Sanaa's leadership in northern Yemen, al-'Attas said: "That is an unfamiliar situation, a position of inaction despite the fact that there are patriotic figures and oppressed tribes there. The fighting taking place in the south is in defense of those people and their rights against the rulers there." He added: "Had they acted and supported the steadfastness of the southern and eastern governorates, the situation would have been different now and the label of north-south conflict would have disappeared, and the military clique would not have had the chance to strike at the unity forcing us to declare the southern state." [passage omitted]

Report on Chemical Weapons Use in Gulf War Refuted

JN2605102294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0851 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Baghdad, 26 May (INA)—An official spokesman today accused some U.S. circles and the Jewish lobby in Washington of trying to mislead the U.S. Congress and to hide the causes of the mysterious illness that has afflicted thousands of U.S. and British soldiers that fought in in the Gulf war.

Commenting on the report presented to the U.S. Congress by Senator Donald Riegle alleging that the Iraqis used chemical weapons against the U.S. forces during the Gulf war, the spokesman said: Medical circles throughout the world can easily diagnose chemical weapons injuries, therefore, it is illogical that U.S. medical circles, which are known for their scientific and technological progress, have failed to diagnose the cause of this illness.

He said: The political pressure groups in the Congress seem to have decided to exploit this case to realize political objectives against Iraq.

The spokesman added: Senator Donald Riegle's report consists of a host of personal testimonies by soldiers, and is not a technical and scientific report. This report conflicts with what had been announced by Senator John Rockefeller, head of the committee that investigated this issue. Rockefeller said that his committee had carried out research into this mysterious illness for six months, and the results showed that the U.S. Defense Department had used for its soldiers medicines that were still being tested. These medicines include vaccines and pills that are still in the research stage.

Senator George Mitchell, leader of the Democratic majority, demanded that an investigation be carried out by the U.S. Defense department and concerned quarters. There was also another reason for this illness, which the U.S. Administration is trying to hide: that is, the extensive use of munitions that contain depleted uranium. Preliminary investigations, that were suppressed by the U.S. Defense Department, showed that the U.S. soldiers had not been warned against exposure to this radiation, and had not been trained to avoid radiation from such munitions.

Diplomat Said Expelled From U.S. for 'Violations'

JN2605092194 Amman Radio Jordan in English 0900 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Iraq's senior diplomat in Washington has been expelled for alleged violations of the agreement that allowed Iraq to maintain a diplomatic presence in the United States. THE WASHINGTON POST said that the diplomat had tried to lobby members of Congress and sent out news releases calling for an end to the United Nations economic embargo against his country. It said that he had also hired and fired staff without notifying the State Department or actions counter to the agreement. The paper said that the State Department did not announce his expulsion, but confirmed it when queried.

Decree Relieves Agriculture Minister of Post

JN2505180294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1750 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] Baghdad, 25 May (INA)—A republican decree was issued here today relieving Agriculture Minister Bashir 'Alwan Hammadi of his post.

The decree noted that that Irrigation Minister Nizar Jum'ah al-Qasir has been appointed as acting agriculture minister.

Kurdistan Democratic Party Urges Irbil Withdrawal

JN2505145794 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1528 GMT 24 May 94

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Dear listeners, honorable citizens: Our unified Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] urges a quick normalization of the situation in the city of Irbil and all over Irbil Governorate as a basic step toward detente. Decisions in this regard were made with the participation of the Iraqi Kurdistan Front [IKF] and the political bureaus of both parties and under the sponsor of the unified Iraqi National Congress [INC]:

1. On 14 May 1994, it was agreed that both side's troops be removed from the roofs of houses and buildings inside Irbil, including the buildings of the parliament and the ministries.

2. It was agreed that forces be withdrawn from inside Irbil on 23 May.

3. At a meeting held in the operation room at the INC's headquarters on 22 May, conferees stressed the need to implement the previous agreements by starting withdrawal of both sides' forces from Irbil.

4. But the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] is still procrastinating and has not carried out any part of the agreements. On the contrary, it continues to deploy its forces in other areas of Irbil and is still concentrating its forces in areas near Irbil like (?Banislau). The fighters of the PUK are still in control of the buildings of the parliament, the ministries, and the Council of Ministers that are adjacent to the parliament building. Thus, the Irbil residents are continuing to appeal to both sides to withdraw their forces to keep the fire of fighting away from the city.

O citizens, this stalemate poses danger to Irbil's security, particularly since the presence of such a large number of fighters leads to regrettable daily clashes. We in the KDP add our voices to those of the honorable residents of Irbil and call for the implementation of agreements by totally withdrawing from the city of Irbil and from all over Irbil

Governorate as a basic step in this stage. We have announced our readiness to withdraw our forces from the Shaqlawah axis. However, the PUK is still regrettably procrastinating.

Once again, we place the Irbil residents before these realities, and we assert that the interests of both sides require withdrawal from Irbil [words indistinct]. The brothers in the PUK sometimes raise objections to what they call violations in other areas of Kurdistan. Whatever these objections may be, they do not absolve us all from the duty of preserving the city of Irbil's security and its residents' safety, particularly since international organizations and UN personnel are present in the capital.

The Irbil masses have demanded in several ways steps to keep the fire of fighting away from inside the city and to stop fighting everywhere, just as the IKF, the INC, and our people's friends have demanded. We in the KDP call warmly and honestly for responding to the popular calls from Irbil, from all over Kurdistan, from national and social figures, from ulemas, from various popular sectors, and from the Iraqi and Kurdistan national forces and parties and for quickly putting an end to this deteriorating situation inside Irbil.

In addition to this, the domination of the city by the two sides' forces has paralyzed the parliament and the Kurdistan Region's Government. It is well known that the fighters of the PUK have not yet withdrawn from the buildings of the parliament and the ministries. They have also erected barricades and checkpoints in the streets leading to the buildings of the parliament and the Council of Ministers.

We beseech Almighty God to help us. God supports honest people. God's peace, mercy, and blesses be upon you.

Implications of Capacitor Story Disclosures Viewed

JN2505115994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] Baghdad, 25 May (INA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH has said that now the Thatcher-Bush fabrication of the capacitors charge against Iraq has been exposed, the West's democracy, respect for human rights, and credibility have come into question.

In its editorial today, the paper stresses that the British courts' unveiling of the British and U.S. intelligence services' fabrication of the capacitors' story—or nuclear weapons' detonators—with the prior knowledge of the then U.S. President and British prime minister, has proved beyond all doubt that Bush and Thatcher wanted to mislead public opinion in the West, especially in the United States, and fabricate justifications to convince legislative and other bodies of the need to launch a war against Iraq.

Describing such behavior as a reflection of moral degeneration, the paper notes that Bush and Thatcher were involved in lies at the highest levels and on the broadest and most important fronts.

It is noteworthy that a British court yesterday ordered the release of two British Urmak [name as transliterated] Company employees, who are serving five-year prison terms, after the court acquired categorical proof that Thatcher had prior knowledge of the plot and that British and U.S. agencies cooperated to frame the employees, Dagger and Speakman [names as transliterated].

The British court has acquired convincing evidence that the judge who presided over the trial of the two British employees deliberately misled the jury into convicting the defendants of being involved in smuggling nuclear detonators to Iraq.

AL-JUMHURIYAH examines the underlying significance of the facts and information that have become available to the British courts about the British and U.S. intelligence and customs authorities' arrangement of the plan to deliver the detonators to the airport and then discover them as export-banned equipment that was on its way to Iraq. The paper says that the aim was to portray Iraq as being effectively on the verge of producing atomic bombs, and that the capacitors were the final step in that plan.

The paper is confident that with the charge of attempting to smuggle nuclear detonators to Iraq now exposed, the UN inspection committees' conclusion that there is no move to produce an Iraqi nuclear bomb, as well as facts that are yet to be disclosed, it has been proved that the aggression against Iraq was a basic part of the colonialist West's strategy of hindering the awakening and progress of any Arab country and preventing unity between Arab countries.

AL-JUMHURIYAH urges the U.S. and western public in general to stress their respect for democracy and human rights and to adopt clear stands against those who deceived and misled them in order to peddle the plan of killing hundreds of thousands of human beings and torturing millions more in Iraq.

Rabin, Sources on PLO Violation of Agreement

TA2505155594 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 25 May 94

[Discussion between studio anchor Tamar Landau and political correspondent Udi Segal at Tel Aviv University—live]

[Text] [Landau] A legal opinion presented to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin today stipulates that if there is a grave violation of the accord with the PLO, the agreement is null and void. If relatively minor violations occur, Israel may impose sanctions such as closing off the Autonomy areas and canceling the safe passages from Gaza to Jericho. Udi Segal has more details:

[Segal] Senior security officials said today they believe that the Palestinian authority wishes to prove it is able to control the territory and—according to estimates by the Palestinian police—if it wanted to, it could foil many terror acts. At the same time, the senior security sources made clear that if the Palestinians fail to provide security, Israel will have to do this itself. The remarks were made to reporters in a meeting with the media to explain the various aspects of the Gaza and Jericho agreement. On the one hand, the sources present a positive picture: We have a partner for dialogue, they say. The activists in the field show that they seriously mean to implement the agreement and prove their ability to do so. For example, the police units that arrived in Gaza show certain control abilities, and even their spic and span uniform shows a degree of authority and seriousness.

On the other hand, we heard a long and detailed briefing about the difficulties that outnumber the positive aspects. The sources mainly referred to the fact that there is no money on the ground, not even for salaries and so called everyday management. There is a shortage of food, gasoline, and other basics of logistic support means are lacking in both the activities of the Palestinian police and the civilian offices which were handed over to local directors. In the meantime, until 'Arafat appoints the Palestinian authority, there is no one to run the area.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1400 GMT on 25 May carries a similar report adding: "Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that in a meeting with correspondents, the sources said PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat has to change his decisionmaking process, otherwise shock waves can be expected in the organization's leadership. They said they do not believe him, but added that if they had to negotiate with the local leadership in the territories, things would have been much harder."]

Speaking before students today, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that although the policemen are not receiving salaries, their performance is better than we had expected. They still do not fully understand their responsibilities or active duties, but we have a partner there. Some policemen there have been out of Gaza for the past 20 years, but their attitude is positive. Rabin then added: I am not referring to their chief chatterer, meaning 'Arafat.

Rabin addressed himself to 'Arafat's decree yesterday canceling military orders, saying violation or not, this is nonsense. His remarks are meaningless.

A legal opinion presented here today states that if the PLO significantly breaches [hafara mashma'utit] the agreement with Israel, the agreement would be null and void or, alternatively, Israel may announce it is suspending the agreement for as long as it wants.

[Landau] Does this condition apply to a reverse hypothetical situation in which Israel violates the agreement in some way? What is a gross violation [hafara hamura]?

[Segal] A gross violation means a breach of a clause without the existence of which the offended party would not have signed the agreement to begin with. That is to say that there may be insignificant violations of the agreement which, according to international law, apply to both parties. 'Arafat's acts over the past several days constitute insignificant violations of the agreement. According to international law, Israel may legally make a reciprocal violation that would equal the first violation. For example, Israel may make take such steps as banning the Palestinian residents of the Gaza Strip and Jericho from entering Israel; canceling the safe passages of Palestinians between Gaza and Jericho; avoid employing laborers in Israel; close the air space; or many other steps.

In the meeting, official analysts spoke about three tests 'Arafat must face now: Providing the Palestinians with security—that is the test of control. The need to unify enough Palestinian bodies to run daily life—that is, making the civilian system, that is not yet working well, operational. The third, which is a precondition for the other two, is the ability to work with budgets, meaning collecting funds from two sources: taxes, and the sources doubt that they will be able to collect taxes at this time; and the international community which so far has not shown that it is willing to finace the autonomy's everyday life.

All the security officials who spoke here today said that it is too early to unequivocally determine whether the agreement is working or not. After all, these are the initial days. It will take a few more weeks before we are able to judge what is really happening in Tunis, Gaza, and Jericho.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1505 GMT carries a similar report by Shlomo Raz adding that in his meeting with reporters today, Prime Minister Rabin said that "he is worried that Jericho might become a focus of sharp confrontation, unless the orders of the Central Command commander are strictly observed." Rabin further said that the Israelis involved in the incidents yesterday "were not exactly naive." Rabin said that Kibbutz Netzarim in the Gaza Strip was evacuated by the Religious Kibbutz Movement "in a big rush, and they even asked for 3 million shekels, and received the money." The place was later inhabited by Gush Emunim activists, but "if this is a real settlement, I'll be damned." Raz goes on to say that "in his address today, Rabin elaborated on his expectations from the agreement with the PLO. Anyone who portrays the agreement of principles as peace is wrong. It is a major step toward peace, but it is not peace." " 'Arafat lacks experience in the conduct of a community's everyday life or in managing budgets, and he has no desire to do so, Rabin stressed. The Palestinian policemen are already suffering from this: they have no salaries, food, or logistics syupport for their activities. At the same time, Rabin pointed out, their attitude so far has been positive. It is also positive that the policemen came from Iraq, Sudan, and Algiers and did not experience the intifadah, thus they do not feel hatred toward us as the Palestinians in the territories do."]

Peres Discusses 'Arafat Behavior, Legal Decree

TA2605074694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, who is visiting the United States, told our correspondent Arye Golan that 'Arafat is facing severe pressure from the Palestinian peace opponents, which can perhaps explain his remarks regarding the Quraish Tribe and the cancellation of the Israeli laws in the autonomy.

[Begin recording] [Peres] 'Arafat has no legislative authority and no authority to cancel existing laws. So things are published in the newspapers, I would prefer the newspaper reports to also agree with the spirit of the Declaration of Principles.

[Golan] What can we learn about 'Arafat and his behavior from this?

[Peres] I am not a psychologist, and I do not think I should comment on the person himself. I can only tell you what he told me, namely, that he is facing a very strong opposition and that he is struggling to implement his policy. He told me, for example, that the entire Johannesburg mosque affair transpired during a heated argument with the Iranians, who accused him of proceeding with Israel while the latter is violating the agreement. 'Arafat claims he said that if Israel violates the agreement he will violate it himself, just as Muhammad violated the agreement after the Quraish Tribe violated it.

I do not want, however, to serve as 'Arafat's advocate, it is not my duty. I also do not want to hand out grades. I am conducting negotiations rather than dealing with graphological analysis or psychoanalysis. [end recording]

Minister: 'Arafat Decree No Violation of Accord

TA2605103494 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 26 May 94 p 1

[ITIM report]

[Text] "The Palestinian Authority has the power to cancel previous legislation. This is no violation of the agreement." These remarks were made last night by Justice Minister David Liba'i in response to the decree by Yasir 'Arafat regarding the cancellation of the Israeli laws in Jericho.

Minister Liba'i added: " 'Arafat tends to favor symbolic and demonstrative acts instead of coming down to the territories and starting to run the inhabitants' life and worrying over real needs. He did nothing by issuing a statement announcing that he is canceling the Israeli laws. According to the agreement between us, we have restricted the validity of their laws so that they cannot pass laws which contradict the agreement. He is no legislator, and has not presented an alternative or introduced order. All that he has done so far is make a statement."

The minister noted that the Palestinian Authority has the right to cancel some of the laws. It would not be a violation, he said, but the question is whether this is wise and how will it impact on the territory.

Shahal: 'Arafat Needs Invitation To Visit Jerusalem

TA2605102694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Minister Moshe Shahal says that Yasir 'Arafat will not be able to visit Jerusalem without an official Israeli invitation, because a person fulfilling a political role cannot visit a foreign country without an invitation.

According to Minister Shahal the incidents between Israelis and Palestinian policemen over the last few days stem from a lack of coordination between the Israeli authorities and the Palestinian police. This is reported by our correspondent Dani Gur-Arye.

Peres Holds Meetings With UNSC Members, Clinton

Urges UNSC To Aid Palestinians

TA2405190294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 24 May 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has called on the members of the UN Security Council [UNSC] to immediately send funds to the Palestinians. He noted that Israel continues paying the salaries of the Civil Administration workers in order to prevent a crisis, though they are not under Israeli jurisdiction. The foreign minister asked the Japanese ambassador to immediately provide the Palestinians with $30 million of the $200 million his country pledged to give them.

Minister Peres met in New York with the ambassadors of the members of the UNSC. Our correspondent Arye Golan reports that the meeting was attended by the PLO's UN observer, and the ambassadors of Morocco and Djibouti.

Raises New Regional Security Initiative

TA2605095794 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 May 94 pp A1, A10

[Report by Aluf Ben, 'Aqiva Eldar, and Nadav Shragay]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and U.S. President Bill Clinton held a meeting yesterday. Following the meeting, President Clinton said that "the coming year is the right time for introducing a change in the Middle East; the United States and I myself are willing to exert great efforts to help create a new situation in the region."

The President added that Peres' ideas regarding a regional framework for security and peace are appropriate, and that he recognizes the logic behind them and wants to encourage their promotion "through an attentive and helpful administration."

In the meeting it was agreed that the United States will undertake to create a "superstructure on a higher level than the multilateral negotiations framework." Peres said that the new structure, which will be similar to the CSCE, will include "three baskets": Security (arms control), economic (a regional market), and human rights. Israel will work out the plan together with the State Department. Peres assesses that Middle East countries which so far have refrained from active participation in the multilateral track will take part in the new initiative.

According to Peres, the Americans believe the Oman, Qatar, and Tunisia multilateral conferences played an important role. He divulged that these conferences were preceded by secret meetings between himself and the foreign ministers of Qatar and Oman in Cairo. Peres added that two more Arab countries will host multilateral meetings.

Yesterday Peres told U.S. congressmen that the sending of U.S. troops to the Golan Heights does not top Israel's list of requests. He said Israel will refrain from requesting to send U.S. soldiers to defend its citizens, "in order not to worry American mothers."

Despite Prime Minister Rabin's remarks downplaying the significance of 'Arafat's comments, Peres and Secretary of State Christopher yesterday demanded that 'Arafat reaffirm his commitment to the peace process. Christopher said: "It would be very helpful if 'Arafat once again stated his desire for peace. Commitments were made, and it is important that they be honored. We need an atmosphere in which we can work with mutual confidence."

Peres demanded that the PLO leader issue a "clear statement" reaffirming three points: his adherence to the Declaration of Principles signed in Washington on mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel; "denouncing all forms of terror and violence"; and promising that "all differences of opinion regarding the agreement be settled through diplomacy and in peaceful ways."

Speaking yesterday at the Carnegie Institute, Peres said that Israel and the PLO have not worked out a secret agreement regarding the holy sites in Jerusalem. According to Peres the Jerusalem issue "remains open religiously, but is closed politically. In due course Jordan will play a role in any agreement regarding Jerusalem, and will have an important role in safeguarding the holy sites."

Prior to his meeting with Peres, Christopher said that for the benefit of the bilateral talks, it is preferable not to convene all four tracks in Washington at the same time, adding that some of the tracks should be conducted in the region. He also said that no date has been determined for the resumption of the Washington talks. Earlier, Peres said that the Palestinians prefer to hold the autonomy talks on the rest of the West Bank in our region. [passage omitted]

Officials Differ on Timing of Request for U.S. Aid

TA2005134694 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 May 94 pp A1, A10

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[Excerpts] Israel has begun holding contacts with U.S. congressmen prior to submitting a request for special U.S. military aid as compensation for an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights within the framework of a peace arrangement with Syria. Israeli Ambassador in Washington Itamar Rabinovich met with a prominent senator several days ago and presented Israel's security needs in the context of an agreement with Syria.

Rabinovich explained that Israel would ask for aid in order to offset any damage to the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] deterrence and preclude any surprise Syrian attack. Rabinovich stressed that since no progress had been made yet in the negotiations with Syria, these were only initial preparations and no official request has been formulated so far. [passage omitted]

Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq has briefed the Americans on Israel's security needs in the event of an arrangement with Syria and has asked for approximately $5 billion in special aid. Baraq also specified the new weapons systems Israel will need, especially in the deterrence field.

During Secretary of State Warren Christopher's last visit, a U.S.-Israeli working group was established to discuss the security components of the arrangement with Syria. On the Israeli side, the group includes the chief of staff; Amb. Rabinovich; and Major General Dani

Yatom, the prime minister's military secretary, while the U.S. side is made up of the members of the U.S. peace team, including General Mike Ryan, the head of the planning department of the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon. The working group held another meeting during Christopher's visit this week.

The presentation of the aid request to the Americans sparked sharp disagreements in the defense establishment because no staff work had been conducted and no detailed discussion held on the components of the procurement list before it was presented to the U.S. team. The chief of staff claimed that it is preferable to conclude the details of the defense aid with the United States at an early stage of the negotiations, in order to secure a U.S. commitment to assist Israel.

Defense Ministry Director General David 'Ivri claimed that an early agreement on U.S. compensation to Israel, even before an arrangement with Syria has been achieved, would enable the Americans to pressure Israel to accede to Syria's demands. He proposed putting off presenting the list of demands to the United States until progress is made in the negotiations with Damascus.

Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, tried to resolve the differences and announced that the list handed to the Americans merely reflects initial ideas and thoughts and that more orderly staff work would be prepared on this matter in the future. The Defense Ministry director general said during internal consultations that he will demand that the procurement list presented to the Americans be amended and include a request to strengthen the U.S. commitment to Israel's defense against surface-to-surface missiles.

'Ivri explained that defense against surface-to-surface missiles will continue to be an important issue even after a peace arrangement is reached because of the threat posed by distant countries and the growing use of missiles around the world. This week, Scud missiles were fired in the war in Yemen. [passage omitted]

Jericho Reopened to Palestinian Traffic

TA2505152994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that following a decision by Major General Ilan Biran, the commander of the Central Command, from 1700 [1400 GMT] Palestinian traffic will once again be permitted to enter and leave Jericho. In the meantime, Israeli traffic will be permitted only along Route 90, which cuts through Jericho, and no diversions will be allowed.

Qatif Bloc Settlements Continue to Grow

TA2305192694 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 23 May 94

[Report by Uri Revah]

[Excerpts] Some 140 new families settled in the Qatif Bloc since the Oslo agreement was signed nine months ago. Only 10 families left the Qatif Bloc during that period. The Hof 'Aza Regional Council says today that expectations of compensation are not a factor in the Bloc's new settlers' decision. These details are revealed here for the first time by our correspondent Uri Revah:

[Begin Revah recording] Were they motivated by the long-term prospects of compensation or by Greater Israel ideology? What are the motives behind the 140 families' decision to settle in the Qatif Bloc after the Oslo agreement? For instance, 41 new families joined Neve Deqalim, versus eight that left the place during the period. [passage omitted]

In Nisanit in northern Gaza Strip, 61 new families settled since the agreement. One of the reasons may be the fact that a private house goes here for a mere 130,000 shekels. [passage omitted]

Dozens of empty housing units are still available in the Qatif Bloc, and these are expected to be inhabited within a short time. [end recording]

Qatif Bloc Settlers Form Security Action Committee

TA2405100694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 24 May 94

[Text] The Qatif Bloc settlers are setting up an action committee to deal with the area's security problems and to monitor the implementation of the autonomy agreement.

Our correspondent Nisim Qeynan reports that as a first step, it has been decided to operate a patrol along the traffic axes as of tonight and to establish rotating shifts manned by Qatif Bloc residents.

Thousands Demonstrate Against Government Policies

TA2205143194 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 May 94 p A10

[Report by Nadav Shragay and Revital Brakha]

[Excerpts] Thousands of people demonstrated yesterday at dozens of locations throughout the country demanding that the agreement with the PLO be suspended to protest "the deteriorating security situation and the increase in terrorist attacks." Until press time, it was reported that NRP [National Religious Party] Knesset Member [MK] Sha'ul Yahalom and two policemen had been injured.

Demonstrations were held, among other locations, at the Qiryat Shemona junction, the Miron junction, Karmi'el, Yoqne'am, Karkur, Rosh Ha'ayn, Haifa, the Golani junction, the Hadera junction, near the prime minister's home in Tel Aviv, and near the Prime Minister's Residence in Jerusalem.

Over 2,000 people took part in a violent demonstration near Rabin's residence in Jerusalem. The demonstrators clashed with policemen and attempted to storm the house. The police on its own initiative closed off the road opposite Rabin's residence and permitted the demonstrators to step off the sidewalk. However, when the crowd subsequently tried to forcibly rush at the house, they were repelled by dozens of policemen, some of whom were on horseback.

Serious traffic jams were reported at around 2200 [1900 GMT] after dozens of burning tires were thrown on King George street. Tires and dumpsters were also set alight in the Ge'ula neighborhood and Hashabat Square. [passage omitted]

Deputy Jerusalem Mayor Shmu'el Me'ir, who attended the demonstration, said that at the next municipal council meeting, he would propose awarding the title of friend of Jerusalem to anyone who would assassinate 'Arafat. [passage omitted]

Hundreds of right-wing demonstrators yesterday participated in a demonstration opposite the prime minister's home in Ramat Aviv. At the demonstration, which was organized by the Eretz Yisra'el Front, which includes all the right-wing parties, the organizers claimed that the murder of two soldiers at the Erez checkpoint on 20 May, proved that the peace was an illusion and the army's operation in Lebanon yesterday was just a flashy maneuver to justify the government's failure in the battle against terrorism. [passage omitted]

IDF Soldier Slightly Wounded by 'Terrorist'

TA2605061594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier was slightly wounded by terrorists' gunfire near Rafah this morning. Our correspondent Moti Amir says that according to initial reports two terrorists shouldering Kalashnikov and M-16 rifles opened fire at an army jeep and escaped. The IDF soldier was very slightly wounded. The security forces are investigating the incident.

Sources Claim Lebanon Rejects Peace Proposal

TA2605050894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Sources in Lebanon claim the Lebanese Government has recently rejected an Israeli proposal for the beginning of a peace process and security arrangements in the security zone. This proposal was submitted via U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

The sources told our correspondent Yo'av Aviv that according to the proposal, Israel is willing to withdraw its forces and end its presence in the Jazzin enclave. SLA [South Lebanese Army] forces in this region will be disarmed and replaced by Lebanese Army units. Security operations in the area will be coordinated by a joint IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and Lebanese Army committee. Over the next five years Israel will gradually withdraw from the security zone and transfer authority to the Lebanese Army, while the SLA will be incorporated as a separate unit within the Lebanese Army.

According to the sources, the Lebanese Government rejected this proposal, claiming it does not involve a full withdrawal, and that there is no room for a separate peace between Israel and Lebanon.

Jaffee Center Experts View Mideast Peace Process

TA1905154494 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 19 May 94 p 2

[Report by Dan Avidan]

[Text] Middle East expert, Professor Shim'on Shamir, said yesterday that to completely resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the Israeli Government must make several gestures to the Palestinians in the context of the permanent arrangement.

Shamir said these gestures should primarily include Israeli sanction of some sort of Palestinian national foothold in East Jerusalem. "I do not believe the Palestinians can be brought to end the conflict with us entirely unless they have a collective foothold in East Jerusalem," Shamir said.

He added that the foothold could be in the form of national institutions, a functional partition of the united city, or the like. Unless the Palestinians are given some foothold in East Jerusalem, the Muslim world will declare a holy war (jihad) for the liberation of Israeli-held holy Muslim sites in Jerusalem, Prof. Shamir warned.

He argued that granting the Palestinians some kind of dominion in East Jerusalem is one of the steps the Israeli Government must take to give the Palestinians a sense of having achieved a just arrangement attaining at least some of their national goals. Otherwise, the agreements which the Israeli Government and the Palestinians have signed or are expected to sign will be unstable and short lived.

In the framework of these steps, Prof. Shamir said, the Government of Israel will have to accede to several other Palestinian demands: to withdraw from most of the West Bank and Gaza without leaving large settlement enclaves behind; to recognize in principle the diaspora Palestinians' right of return to the West Bank and Gaza territories in which a Palestinian entity will be eventually established; to permit the Palestinians to enjoy a sense of temporary sovereignty in the West Bank and Gaza before they forge a confederative alliance with Jordan.

Prof. Shamir said that these terms are difficult for Israel, but unless they are met, the conflict between us and the Palestinians will continue and become more extreme because in the meantime, the Palestinians will have acquired a political foothold in the territories, including security forces and a police, as well as international recognition as an "incipient state."

Prof. Shamir said that in general, the present time offers Israel, the Arab states, and the Palestinians a genuine opportunity to reach peace agreements. The opportunity stems from the changes the Arab world has undergone in the last decade, the most prominent of which is the supportive approach of new technocratic pro-West elites, which seek to end the Israeli-Arab conflict in a bid to build a stable Middle East in which economic activities can be safely conducted. Yet the prospects of turning this opportunity into reality largely depends on the parties' willingness to pay the necessary price.

Reserve Major General Shlomo Gazit said in his lecture that in his opinion, nuclear weapons will be introduced to the Arab Middle East in the near future. He asserted that a new strategic environment has emerged in the Middle East facilitating political negotiations and the attainment of peace accords between Israel and the Arabs. This situation evolved in the wake of several global and regional changes over the past few years, most notably the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of the era of pan-Arab ideology in the region.

He argued that the sides—Israel and the Arabs—should hurry to achieve peace arrangements lest the congenial strategic environment change again. Unless political arrangements are achieved soon, the militant Islamic stream may grow and possibly come to power and form the leadership of some Arab countries and in the Palestinian public. If that happens, the conflict will evolve into confrontation between Judaism and Islam and become far more radical.

Gazit warned that a recurrence of the Hebron massacre at holy Muslim sites in East Jerusalem would provoke a jihad against Israel. According to him, the peace accords will on the one hand lower the Arabs' motivation to launch war, but on the other hand, the Arabs may be tempted to launch a surprise attack in the wake of the expected Israeli withdrawal from a considerable part of the territories. Gazit maintained that such a threat can be thwarted by reliable security arrangements that will strengthen, rather than weaken Israel following withdrawal.

Prof. Shamir and Gen. Gazit made these observations during the annual symposium held by the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University in memory of former Chief of Staff David El'azar.

Press Reaction to al-Dirani Kidnapping

TA2205120494

[Editorial report] All Israeli newspapers on 22 May carry commentaries on the 21 May IDF [Israel Defense Forces] operation in which Believers Resistance leader Mustafa al-Dirani was abducted. The commentaries applaud the army's operational capability and analyze the operation's goals, inherent message, expected upshot, and legitimacy.

A commentary by Ze'ev Schiff on page A1 of Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew, entitled "Perfect Intelligence," says the action "should be evaluated by two criteria: operationally and with regard to the degree of risk and prospects of success. Operationally, this was undoubtedly an impressive and very 'clean' operation," "based on impeccable, commendable operational intelligence work."

Comparing this operation to the abduction of Shaykh Karim 'Ubayd in 1989, Schiff concludes: "It now remains to be seen whether the premises that led to the operation will prove valid, and whether the abduction of al-Dirani will be more productive than that of 'Ubayd."

A commentary in Daniyel Bloch's "Position" column on page 1 of Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew, entitled "The IDF Reasserts Itself," says the operation's significance "goes beyond Ron Arad's fate. It transmits a clear message to Israel's immediate neighbors and to distant regions that the IDF has not lost its capability to initiate and carry out courageously and efficiently any unorthodox operations needed to safeguard the security of the state and of Israeli citizens, and to rescue Israeli soldiers and civilians wherever they are."

Bloch notes that "the importance of this daring and sophisticated operation is even greater at this time," as it has proven that the harrowing tasks carried out by the army during the intifadah have not impaired its operational capability.

Writing under the headline, "Kidnapping Will Undermine Hizballah Leaders' Sense of Security and Augment Syrian Involvement" on pages 1 and 4 of the same issue of DAVAR, Dan Avidan notes: "The significance of the al-Dirani kidnapping and transfer to Israel goes beyond the practical importance of his interrogation. This, because we can state even at this early stage that the kidnapping itself and its excellent execution have generated a sense of personal insecurity among Hizballah leaders at various levels." Avidan assumes that as a result, "Hizballah leaders may now change their stand" on the release of Ron Arad, although "no immediate positive results should be expected."

In Avidan's opinion, "the Lebanese and Syrian Governments have also been affected by the commando operation. Lebanon has already loudly protested the Israeli assault on its sovereignty, but it will not do much beyond protesting vociferously. Syria, whose inability to foil the commando operation was a blow to its prestige," "will almost certainly encourage Hizballah to launch anti-IDF operations in the security zone and denounce the Israeli operation.

"It can be safely assumed, however, that both the Syrians and the Lebanese will learn their lessons from the IDF commando operation; in addition, they too will prefer to end the Arad affair in order to avoid being humiliated in the future by this kind of IDF activity. Both countries—particularly Syria—will probably take behind- the-scenes action to convince the Iranians to release the navigator—if the latter are indeed holding him."

Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew carries three commentaries on the subject. A commentary by Aharon Klein on pages 1 and 2, entitled "Six Years Too Late," asserts that "the operation constitutes a certain contribution to Israel's deterrent power. It has refreshed the Hizballah leaders' memory about 'Israel's long arm' which can reach anywhere. The question is whether it was carried out in the right place. A second Lebanon operation of this kind, that can provide information about Ron Arad or bring him back home, is hardly likely in the coming year. Al-Dirani was kidnapped only six years too late. What is certain, however, is that national morale will soar for at least a few days."

A commentary by Pinhas 'Inbari on page 3 of 'AL HAMISHMAR, entitled "Signal to Syria," links the operation to the peace process: "The kidnapping indicates a change in Israeli doctrine. Besides being an effort to obtain the release of Ron Arad and the MIA's, it was a signal to Syria." Since Syria failed to respond to diplomatic attempts to secure a "gesture toward Israel in a bid to improve the peace process atmosphere," "Syria will now have to make a different kind of gesture.

"The political process with Syria is based on the Israeli willingness to acknowledge the Syrian role in Lebanon in return for Syrian endorsement of Jordan concluding its talks with Israel. Yet since Syria continues shackling Jordan, Israel is now signaling that it may revert to its original demand that Syrian troops pull out of Lebanon and that Syria resign its role there."

The page-9 'AL HAMISHMAR editorial, entitled "Lesson for Terrorist Organizations," asserts: "The successful kidnapping of terrorist leader Mustafa al-Dirani should teach all the terror organizations that their hideaways are no guarantee of impunity." Noting that "the action was launched after all other options had been exhausted," the editorial says: "We must therefore congratulate the IDF for the successful operation, which was carried out without casualties or losses, and applaud the decisionmakers for taking the risks." The editorial adds that "unorthodox measures may and should be used against terror groups resorting to unorthodox methods, because there is no other way to deal with this kind of underground.

"It is to be hoped that the international community will view this action not only with understanding, but also with empathy, because the object of this successful operation was to defend international law and to enforce it in these dark jungles, which are a stain on the face of the earth."

Commentary by Ron Ben-Yishay on page 7 of Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew, entitled "Why al-Dirani, Why Now," examines several aspects of the operation. Ben-Yishay argues that "al-Dirani is not an important Shiite leader," and "his value in the hostage bazaar may be even slighter than that of Shaykh 'Ubayd." He concludes, nevertheless, that "al-Dirani may be a valuable political and intelligence asset." Another question he poses: "Why did it take us so long to get to Mr. al-Dirani?"

Ben-Yishay adds that the operation sought to achieve several goals, one of which was the need "to remind the dejected people of Zion of the IDF's prowess." Another "message was to the Palestinians: Beware! The IDF's arm reaches very far."

Reaction to al-Dirani Kidnapping Continues

Nasrallah Holds News Conference

NC2505095894 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 25 May 94 p 2

[Text] Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah has called on the government and the prime minister to resign immediately because "this authority is not trustworthy and is not fit to govern a struggling people." He stressed the need for the "flaccid leadership to stop putting restrictions and limitations on the scope of the work of the resistance, which is a sacred weapon. The scope of the resistance must expand with the expansion of the scope of the aggression." He explained that this does not mean there should be self-security [for Hizballah] or that this will result in chaos but that there should be cooperation and measures that would enable the people to stand on the side of the state. While Nasrallah did not rule out the possibility of an internal breach of security by a double agent, he said the fate of Israeli navigator Ron Arad is a riddle "we cannot solve."

Nasrallah made these remarks at a news conference held at the Hizballah Information Mobilization office in Harat Hurayk yesterday to discuss the kidnapping of Mustafa al-Dirani, one of the leaders of the "Believers' Resistance." The news conference was held amid stringent security measures.

Nasrallah opened his news conference by noting that the targeting of one of the symbols of the resistance is an unleashing of the Zionist terrorism that is backed by U.S. equipment and technology and "encouraged by the international collusion manifested in its ugliest form in the way it dealt with the al-Ibrahimi Mosque and the various Zionist enemy attacks on Lebanon and the region."

He said: The Zionist enemy is trying to describe this new terrorist act as a courageous and heroic action to raise the morale of its soldiers and agents, which has sunk very low because of the blows of the Islamic Resistance strugglers. But we stress that this action, which benefited from advanced capabilities, and the way it happened proves the failure of the Zionists to confront the heroes of the resistance, who are facing, in broad daylight and with simple capabilities, all the enemy's tyranny and force.

He added: This serious Zionist violation followed the suppression of the media and freedoms and disregard for public opinion. The latest ridiculous situation was the farce of Prime Minister al-Hariri's staying at home as part of the struggle for posts and settling accounts within the authority. Again we caution and express concern over the fate of the country and the people, not just the fate of the resistance. We caution against this domineering, irresponsible and indifferent mentality. The authority and its men were busy with the 'Id al-Adha holiday while the enemy was violating security, sovereignty, and dignity.

Nasrallah said: The minimum of responsibility and dignity require this government and its prime minister to resign immediately. This is because the authority that dared to commit massacres against its civilian population on 13 September 1993 now stands deadly silent before this Zionist terrorist act. This authority is not trustworthy and is not fit to govern a struggling, proud, and dear people, such as our Lebanese people.

He noted that "the clear shortcomings and negligence regarding the required measures have enabled the enemy to achieve gains he does not deserve at the expense of the Lebanese people and morale and at the expense of resistance achievements, which in the past few months have entered the final phase of dismantling and finishing off Lahd's army [South Lebanese Army]."

He warned that the confrontation is no longer restricted to a limited geographic area and that all the Lebanese territories are now vulnerable to Zionist violations and aggression. He said the resistance weapon is sacred wherever it may be and that the scope of resistance can stretch with the expansion of the area of aggression. "Therefore, the relaxed leaders must refrain from laying down restrictions, drawing limits, and specifying the area of resistance activity, because all this is a luxury and theoretical talk that has nothing to do with the reality of the challenge and suffering," he said, emphasizing that enhancing and protecting the resistance in the face of the Israeli profanity is one of the main prerequisites for establishing real national peace in this country.

Cautioning that the Gaza Agreement still gives the Zionist enemy an extra footing, Nasrallah called for serious action to thwart it and prepare for a new, massive revival against the Israeli schemes. He maintained that the kidnapping method was a new message with major implications. "It was targeted against the resistance, the homeland, the nation, domestic social peace, and the security of Lebanon and the region. Most probably the goal is far beyond what the enemy has announced regarding the search for information on the seized navigator. It even seeks political objectives within the Zionist entity," Nasrallah said. He stressed that the process of planning, reacting to, and dealing with that incident must be as big as the implications, the risks, and the objectives the enemy has attached to it.

Nasrallah concluded by saying: As long as the enemy has opted to expand the scope of confrontation, it must bear the responsibility for that decision, because the resistance fighters' and mujahidin response will come from where they expect and where they do not. Anyway, he said, the battle will be long. Victory will be ours and shame and destruction will be the share of the Zionist occupiers.

Nasrallah then answered correspondents' questions. He remarked that "local infiltration is possible" but that the issue "is sheer speculation." He explained that party elements have visited the target area and gathered information from the people. "The picture is taking final shape as far as we are concerned, if it has not already materialized."

He pointed out that the area was experiencing storming operations. "We were careful to avoid problems, because our policy is to facilitate the work of the authorities concerned. This atmosphere was used to achieve a better performance in that operation," he said. He revealed that gaps existed, denying the party's responsibility for them. "The Israeli operation could have been costly," he remarked, stressing the need for cooperation with the Lebanese Army and the Syrian forces to block these gaps.

Answering a question, Nasrallah said: We demand neither self-imposed nor relaxed security. What we want to say is that there should be cooperation and measures that enable the people to stand by the Lebanese state against any Israeli aggression. The resistance can live with social peace. It is even a prerequisite of that peace.

Nasrallah does not expect Israel to achieve what it wants from al-Dirani's kidnapping, because "Ron Arad's" issue has become like a riddle. "We dealt with the issue very seriously because it is part of a process that can help release all POW's and detainees in Israeli jails. Hajj Mustafa cooperated seriously with us. He knows the declared and circulated information on the issue to an extent, after which neither we nor him know anything of the issue. That is why I can swear that the Israelis will reach a dead end with him (Abu-'Ali al-Dirani)."

The Hizballah secretary general affirmed that the party has not ruled out a swap. "But we do not know the party holding Arad; we do not even know whether he is being held by a particular party. Besides, Israel rejects any solution involving a swap unless the Israeli navigator is involved in it," he said. He believes that "Arad's" issue might be a mere excuse to target the resistance and its leaders. He expressed surprise that the world is interested in this issue although it ignores hundreds of Lebanese and thousands of Palestinians who are being held in the occupation's prisons.

Army Commander Rebuts Criticism

NC2505163094 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 25 May 94

[Excerpt] Army Commander General Emile Lahhud has stated that the army is opposing attempts by anyone to exploit the Israeli act of aggression in abducting resistance official Mustafa al-Dirani to harm the morale of the army and citizens or to circulate rumors to promote divisive stances that do nothing but cause harm. Everyone must view this issue with enlightenment, responsibility, and awareness. The enemy seeks to kindle sedition and cause confusion. Our response should not in any way jeopardize security.

In his monthly address in the army magazine, General Lahhud noted that temporary difficulties will not prevent the army from performing their duty to preserve national security and defend the south. Referring to the latest Israeli operation in al-Biqa', which resulted in the abduction of the resistance official, he said it was designed, among other things, to strike at our national morale and to create an atmosphere of fear and doubt. He said: What must be said is that we are still in conflict with the Israeli enemy because of their continued occupation of part of the south. As a result of the occupation, the enemy is suffering from continuous attacks despite their considerable resources. The enemy expand the scope of their aggression to boost their morale and to undermine our morale. We must prevent the enemy from achieving their goal by plugging the gaps created by their aggression.

He said: What is more important is that, as military personnel, we know that the army was vigilant from the first moment of the Israeli operation and tried to do its duty in coordination with the Syrian Arab forces. Patrols were operating in the area where the Israeli forces landed and tried to assess the situation before intervening. But several military considerations, such as the difficult terrain and routes and the failure to define the target fast enough, prevented the army from foiling the operation. [passage omitted]

Al-Tufayil Says Arad Probably Dead

NC2605084894 Beirut AL-ANWAR in Arabic 24 May 94 p 4

[Report by Muhammad Abu-Isbir from Ba'labakk]

[Excerpts] New information has emerged regarding the Israeli act of piracy represented by the abduction of al-Hajj Mustafa al-Dirani, one of the leaders of the Believers Resistance, from his home in Qasr Naba. The Israelis jammed the telecommunications networks in the area during the operation. An agent guided the two helicopters to their landing place on the al-Furzul-Niha hills at night. The Israeli soldiers doped Mustafa al-Dirani's family members so that they couldn't move or resist. Needle marks were found on their hands, legs, and necks.

Traces of blood were found a few meters from al-Dirani's house. It is believed an Israeli soldier was wounded during an exchange of fire. Israel has admitted that one Israeli officer was hurt during the operation. The Israelis opened fire from weapons equipped with silencers. The Israeli military jeeps stopped at a place called Wadi Shararah outside Qasr Naba.

The first to open fire on the Israeli force was 'Abd-al-Karim al-Dirani (brother of captive Mustafa), who used a hunting rifle to fire on the Israeli soldiers. The Israelis used infrared night vision equipment.

The telephone line at al-Dirani's house was out of order for three days. The Israelis appear to have known about this because they did not cut the line.

Marks left by an axe were seen on a wooden door and there were three bullet marks on the outside wall of the second floor of the house. It seems the Israelis fired on the house to cover their withdrawal.

The israelis left behind a door-opening device, cassettes, al-Dirani's worry beads, and bandages, which, it seems, they dropped in the confusion after fire was opened on them.

Al-Hajj Mustafa al-Dirani returned to his house in Qasr Naba on the evening of Friday [20 May] to spend the 'Id al-Adha holiday with his family, relatives, and friends. This proves that his house was under surveillance by agents. Thus the circle of suspicion might narrow, possibly leading to the identification of the participants in the operation. [passage omitted]

Former Hizballah Secretary General Subhi al-Tufayil held a news conference at which he accused the Lebanese authorities of having prior knowledge of the operation and contributing to the handover of al-Hajj Mustafa al-Dirani to Israel. He said: The state is held responsible because it is responsible for the people's security and because it storms houses, arrests people, and sets up gallows.

He declared that the state, which cannot protect its citizens from the Zionist enemy, who came by helicopters and stayed five hours on the ground, has no right to knock on doors and storm citizens' homes. It has no right to say it is responsible for the country's security.

He called on citizens to use weapons against anyone who knocks on their door and storms their home, regardless of his alleged identity or uniform, because we are facing a situation in which we cannot differentiate between the Zionist enemy and others. Every citizen must defend himself.

Al-Tufayil said the Israeli operation was within the framework of the negotiations and part of the security normalization process between Lebanon and the Zionist entity.

He said the issue of Israeli pilot Ron Arad is a riddle [uhjiyyah]. He pointed out: According to my confirmed information, Iran has no connection with this issue. And Hizballah—of which I was secretary general—has no connection with this issue. I have heard that the other parties that might be holding the pilot have denied any connection with or knowledge of the issue. If the denial is correct, as is the case with Hizballah and Iran, the chances are that the Israeli pilot has died or was killed. Based on this premise, the issue is now a riddle.

Zakariya Hamzah, also known as Abu-Yahya, one of the leaders of the Believers Resistance, said: We have an account to settle with Israel. As Abu-'Ali al-Dirani was taken, he will return. Our concern now is to search for the threads that led the Israelis to brother Mustafa al-Dirani. We will cooperate to confront the ferocious Israeli enemy. After the assassination of 'Abbas al-Musawi, the quality operations against Israel increased. After the abduction of Abu-'Ali, we will confront Israel with quality operations. This is our style. We have an account outstanding with the Jews, outstanding since the time of Khaybar. The biggest account we will settle will be with the agents of the enemy. [passage omitted]

Source Denies Receiving Israeli Withdrawal Offer

NC2605054994 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Lebanon has denied that it received any Israeli offer to withdraw from the south and western al-Biqa'. An authoritative Foreign Ministry source said: The Foreign Ministry would like to explain that this report is untrue. It hopes the media will be accurate with their reports, especially regarding issues relating to Lebanon's foreign policy and the negotiating process in the Middle East.

Al-Shar', Yeltsin Envoy Discuss Peace Process

JN2505141194 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' today received Viktor Posuvalyuk, Russian President Boris Yeltsin's envoy.

Attending the meeting were Dr. Ghassan Raslan, director of the East Europe Department at the Foreign Ministry, and Aleksandr Zotov, Russian ambassador in Damascus.

The talks dealt with developments in the peace process, Israel's arrogant policies, and its stands obstructing the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace in the region. The talks also dealt with relations between Syria and Russia and means of promoting them.

Further on al-Shar'-Posuvalyuk Talks

JN2505155194 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' today received Viktor Posuvalyuk, Russian President Boris Yeltsin's envoy.

Attending the meeting were Dr. Ghassan Raslan, director of the East Europe Department at the Foreign Ministry, and Aleksandr Zotov, Russian ambassador in Damascus.

The talks dealt with developments in the peace process, and Israel's arrogant policies, and its stands obstructing the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

In this regard, the foreign minister urged the Russian Federation and the United States, in their capacity as the peace process sponsors, to denounce these Israeli policies and stands, particularly the recent terroristic kidnapping operation carried out by the Israeli troops inside the Lebanese territory.

The talks also dealt with relations between Syria and Russia and means of promoting them.

Daily Rejects Peres' Statement on Normalization

JN2605082194 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 26 May 94

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Peres' Statement and the Israeli illusion," AL-BA'TH says: The Israeli officials' contradictory statements on peace and the terms of reference of the peace process continue. The latest of these statements was made by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. Yesterday he asked Syria to normalize its relations with Israel, and emphasized that the normalization process should have begun with the negotiation process.

AL-BA'TH adds: This means that Peres wants normalization before the Israeli withdrawal from the occupied land. It is not ruled out that Israel wants normalization of relations while our land is under occupation. The statements by several Israeli officials, especially Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Peres emphasize this fact.

It says: In their statements, Rabin, Peres, and others have so far not referred to full withdrawal from the Golan, but they always and only emphasize withdrawal in the Golan. This emphasizes that Israel wants the peace process to entrench its occupation of Arab land, and then the Arabs should normalize relations with it. By this, Israel would have both peace and land. This is what Israel seeks through deeds, not words.

The newspaper stresses that these statements do not benefit the peace process, but are directed against it. The Israelis are mistaken if they believe Syria may give up its declared policy on the peace process.

The newspaper says: Syria's acceptance to participate in the peace process stemmed from its clear principles and constants, based on implementation of resolutions of international legitimacy and the land-for-peace principle.

The newspaper stresses that full and comprehensive Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories is unnegotiable as a condition for continuing the peace process with all its details.

The newspaper speaks about the Israeli policy which depends on maneuvers and evasion of the requisites of the peace process, and says: That policy is totally rejected by Syria. Syria always emphasizes that the basic condition for achieving a just and comprehensive peace is Israel's full withdrawal from our occupied land. Short of this, the peace process will continue to be stalemated.

The newspaper warns against the Israeli maneuvering policy because it will lead the peace process to a dead end, which is what Israel seeks.

AL-BA'TH concludes by saying: Israel should remember that the conflict is continuing and resolving it will not be easy. It is time for Israel to be aware that there will be no peace, security, and stability in the region while our Arab land is occupied.

Need for Total Israeli Golan Pullout Reiterated

JN2005193294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 May 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] After Syria reiterated that the Israeli position has continued to shift further away from the requirements of the peace process that was launched in Madrid, and noted that a gaping gulf separated the Syrian and Israeli postures, Rabin govenment officials hastend to spread a false sense of optimism, claiming that the talks have not been deadlocked and the differences are bridgeable.

They also raised the possibility of yet another Middle East shuttle by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher next month.

Although Syria has consistently expressed its appreciation for the American efforts and showed its deep concern for the peace process to continue in order to promote a just and comprehensive Middle East peace based on UN resolutions and the land-for-peace formula, Syria is equally anxious to bring Israel's unyielding stubborness to the attention of the world community.

There has been a lapse of more than two and one half years since the Washington talks; Mr. Christopher has made numerous tours of the region; Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Bill Clintion held a summit in Geneva; and Syria has declared its readiness to set up firm and honorable peace in the region and to be obligated by all its requirements. Israel, however, still refuses to commit itself to a total pullout from the Golan Heights, thus thwarting all efforts and dashing all hopes that the peace process on the Syrian-israeli track may be propelled forward. Ever since the Madrid conference, Syria has let no occasion pass without reiterating that the Golan Heights are not subject to bargaining and that Israel will have to pull out from the entire territory. Indeed, many Israeli officials have said that peace with Syria seems to be an impossibility short of a total pullout from the Golan Heights.

When the Rabin govenment turns down the principle of total withdrawal, Syria takes this to mean that Israel rejects peace. Syria adheres to every grain of sand on the occupied Golan Heights. The territory's soil has a special sacredness to Syria and to the Golan's displaced population, who are waiting to return to their homes and reclaim their property and rehabilitate what was destroyed by invading Israeli forces.

The UN Security Council resolutions are clear and unambiguous. These resolutions state the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, bar change to its character or any tampering with its identity and history. They further call for Israel's publlback to the 1967 lines. The American initiative that led to the convening of the Madrid conference was based on the UN Security Council resolutions and the land-for-peace formula and a just and comprehensive peace on all front of the dispute.

If Israel goes out of its way to maneuver and blackmail by refusing to commit itself to a total pullout from the Golan Heights, it is now universally acknowledged that Syria will not bow to any form of blackmail or be dragged behind any maneuvering or budge an inch from its adherence to its land and rights. Peace is contigent on the entire Golan Heights being handed back to Syria and an Israeli withdrawal to the 1967 lines. Syria will not renounce an iota of its land or rights. Israel alone must take the responsibility for the failed peace efforts and for sabotaging the American initiative on account of its procrastination and prevarication. Israel is taking a stand against the substance of the peace process, this being its withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

The American secretary of state's return to the Middle East in a new effort will not yield any results unless it is coupled with a substantive shift in the Israeli position. In other words, Israel must commit itself to the principle of a total withdrawal from the occupied territories and the strict implementation of Security Council resolutions and international law rather than the law of the jungle—the law of occupation and expansion.

The question is not one of bridging the Israeli and Syrian positions as the Rabin government would have us believe. More to the point is to convince the Tel Aviv rulers to submit to UN resolutions and international law and the values of right and justice. Syria has always obligated itself to UN resolutions. Israel alone defies these resolutions and devalues international conventions. The world community never sanctioned the occupation of other nations' territory by force. Nor does it sanction any change to the character of any occupied land. Israel has no choice by to effect a complete withdrawal from the occupied territories if it really wants to see a just and firm peace prevail in the Middle East, as its rulers keep claiming.

Premier, Iranian Envoy Discuss Expansion of Ties

LD2605082194 Tehran IRNA in English 0418 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Damascus, May 26, IRNA—Iran and Syria Wednesday [25 May] discussed ways to upgrade bilateral ties and reviewed matters of mutual interest.

The talks were held here between Iran's Ambassador to Syria Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Hasan Akhtari and Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi.

During the meeting Hojjat ol-Eslam Akhtari submitted a message to the Syrian premier from Iranian First Vice-President Hasan Habibi for an official visit to Iran.

India

Rao Encourages Private Investment in Power Sector

BK2305160894 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] The prime minister said that the government will go all out to promote private investment in the power sector so that scarce resources are available for the social sector. He said many rules and regulations inhibiting private investment in the power sector have been removed in the last two years and the government is ready to further simplify the rules. Mr. Narasimha Rao was inaugurating a conference in New Delhi today titled India Power 94 on the development and financing of private sector power projects. He said the government is fully alive to the key role that power generation can play in the country's industrial growth. He urged the power sector to reach out to the people in the far-flung areas.

Earlier, in his keynote address, the power minister, Mr. N.K.P. Salve, said the center is awaiting the findings of the Sharad Pawar Committee on the working of state electricity boards. He said the two-tier price mechanism for the private power sector is proving highly encouraging.

Media Offer Varying Assessments of Rao U.S. Trip

Radio Hails 'Unqualified' Success

BK2305133094 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 23 May 94

[Commentary by Ajay K. Roy, special correspondent of the NATIONAL HERALD]

[Text] The prime minister Mr. Narasimha Rao's week-long visit to the United States has turned out to be an unqualified diplomatic success and its impact on the economic front has been quite encouraging with no compromises made on India's consistent stand on (?contentious) issues like nuclear nonproliferation and human rights. The main objective of the visit was not to break new ground with regard to differences between the two countries on some issues, but to establish a relationship between Mr. Rao and President Bill Clinton, and that has been achieved in full measure. The two leaders after their summit meeting have struck a personal rapport and it would be now easier and more natural for them working together.

As senior officials from both sides said in Washington, they listened to each other to understand the differences in perspective. They established a basis to communicate on a number of issues which are now ongoing agenda. This one-to-one bond has alleviated the Indo-U.S. relations to an appropriate level of maturity which can withstand differences of perception of national interests. A good measure of such maturity was in evidence when president Bill Clinton, responding to a query at the joint press conference, candidly said I would not say differences between ourselves narrowed down, but I think they should be seen in the context of whole relationship. Equally mature is the attitude of the Prime Minister Mr. Rao toward bilateral relations. He told newsmen in Washington, as mature democracies we might differ on this or that issue, but such differences are subsumed in the overall understanding that characterizes our relationship.

Calling for new partnership in the joint communique of the summit, the two leaders decided to expand the scope and pace of high-level exchanges at the full range of political, commercial, technological, and social issues. Mr. Rao has started this by inviting President Clinton himself, which Mr. Clinton has accepted in principle. Visits at the level of vice presidents have also been planned. The first lady Mrs. Hillary Clinton is also likely to visit India. President Clinton himself has announced that the Commerce Secretary, Mr. Ronald Brown, will lead a presidential trade and investment mission to India in November and the Energy Secretary, Mrs. O'Leary, will visit in July this year.

A significant gain from the summit meeting is the signing of six Memorandums of Understanding [MOU] between the two countries. The first decision is to revive the Indo-U.S. Joint Commission set up in 1974. To begin with, its subcommission on economic and commercial issues would meet before the end of the year. Secondly, it was decided to establish regular official consultations at various levels alternatively in India and the U.S. This is the pattern followed by India with Germany, Japan, Britain, France, and some others. The third and most significant of the decisions was to review and update the 1984 MOU on the transfer of high technology from the U.S. Since 1987, when the U.S. started imposing sanctions against the Indian Space Research Organization, the MOU has been virtually defunct. Fourth, it was agreed to enhance defense cooperation at the civilian and service-to-service level. The U.S. defense secretary, Mr. William Perry, and the new U.S. commander-in-chief of the Pacific region would visit India some time this year. Fifth, it was decided to examine the possibility of setting up an eminent persons group of nonofficials to provide intellectual stimulus to bilateral ties. Lastly, a business partnership initiative would be set up, particularly on the subject of infrastructure development in India.

The high point of Mr. Rao's visit was his brilliant address to the joint session of the U.S. Congress wherein he displayed exemplary reasoning and fortitude in establishing the Indian viewpoint. In pursuing economic agenda during his visit, Mr. Rao had succeeded far beyond anything that had been anticipated. The captains of the U.S. multinationals during their interactions with Mr. Rao in New York, Houston, and Washington showed positive interest in specific areas. Above all, the two countries agreed on the goal of nuclear nonproliferation which has been hanging fire for quite some time now. Thus, now India and the U.S. have reached a stage where they could enter into constructive dialogue.

Visit 'Nothing To Write Home About'

BK2305120294 Madras BUSINESS LINE in English 21 May 94 p 8

[Editorial: "Betwixt And Between"]

[Text] The visits abroad of the Prime Minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, have come to acquire an undefinable and ethereal air of unreality. Some months ago, he visited the UK ostensibly to witness the signing of an agreement guaranteeing to British investors certain safeguards against expropriation and the like which were nothing new and had been Government policy for years. No doubt, he met the British Prime Minister, Mr. John Major, and addressed businessmen and NRIs, but these are akin to the perks of a dignitary on official visit. Now, his U.S. visit leaves us wondering, much as little Peterkin was in Robert Southey's gem of a poem 'Blenheim', 'What good came of it at last?' Even those who supported Mr. Rao in his decision, taken braving the preponderant opinion in the country against the U.S. visit, must be asking the same question. At least the old raconteur in the poem had the gumption to say, 'That I cannot tell... But it was a famous victory.' Mr. Rao's visit was no famous victory; it fits no description other than being betwixt and between.

True to type, Mr. Rao's to-ing and fro-ing from Houston to Boston to Washington falls into a nebulous category, devoid of any sharp focus or sense of concrete achievement. He need not have gone half the way round the world to tell manufacturers and captains of industry what most of them must have, in any case, heard many times before. They must have been told, sometimes by the Prime Minister himself, during their probing missions to India, that the reforms are irreversible, that India is the largest emerging market, that it is a good country to do business with and that any obstacles brought to notice would be swiftly attended to. Mr. Rao's address to the Harvard University audience cannot exactly be hailed as earth-shaking. The Memoranda of Understanding signed are of no such significance as to require the Prime Minister to lend the weight of his presence. The members of the delegation of Indian businessmen were all persons who knew their way about in the world and whether any particular bonanzas came their way by synchronising their travels with those of Mr. Rao is for them to decide.

Of course, when a Prime Minister officially visits a country, he gets his meed of courtesies and ceremonies. Mr. Rao made good use of the invitation coaxed out of the U.S. Congress to address it by buttressing his reiteration of India's known position on contentious issues with quotations and parallels in American history. The reference to the U.S. Supreme Court judgement of Texas was particularly relishable and apposite. However, the US Congressmen and Senators are hard nuts to crack, and while graciously punctuating the speeches of distinguished visitors in their midst with applause and according them standing ovations, they still manage to keep their own counsel and go their own way.

And that leaves Mr. Rao's encounter with the U.S. President, Mr. Bill Clinton. For all the advance billing it received as the grand climacteric of the visit, the outcome of the meeting seems to have turned out to be a let-down for both parties. That much was obvious from the body language of both of them at the joint press conference following their talks. And with Mr. Clinton's clear indication that there was no narrowing of differences between the two countries on issues on which the US had chosen to wield the big stick, the one event by which much store was set could only be said to have misfired. Indeed, it must have been painfully embarrassing both for the Prime Minister and those who watched the live telecast of the press conference that he stood forlorn at the lectern for a full half-an-hour, while the U.S. President was having a fun time answering questions on subjects that had nothing to do with the occasion.

So, what is there to show for the visit? Mr. Clinton's agreeing to keep an open mind on India's claims for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council? His promise of visits by the U.S. Defense and Commerce Secretaries to India in July and November? His accepting Mr. Rao's invitation to visit India himself? The indeterminate continuance of the dialogue for as long as it takes to arrive at a convergence? Judged with hard-headed horse sense, the cost-benefit ratio of Mr. Rao's visit looks like nothing to write home about.

Overture to U.S. Industry Praised

BK2305115894 Delhi THE PIONEER in English 21 May 94 p 8

[Editorial: "Hopefully, A New Accomodation in India-U.S. Relations"]

[Text] One week ago, before he departed for the world's second largest democracy, few people could have predicted the outcome of the trip being undertaken by the Prime Minister of the largest democracy. While Cassandras predicted doom and disaster, more sober Opposition politicians mildly rebuked Mr PV Narasimha Rao for undertaking such a venture at this point of time. Precisely a week later, Mr Rao is returning home after his American sojourn to thunderous applause. By all accounts, this has been his most successful foreign trip—indeed, he has excelled himself, providing a glimpse of a determined elder statesman that nobody knew lurked behind his persona of a brooding and dithering politician.

Whether at the various meetings he had with American businessmen or in his fine speech to the U.S. Congress, Mr Narasimha Rao exhibited a confidence that reflected the indomitable spirit of India: He portrayed himself as the epitome of all that modern India stands for; he carried with him a message not from a Third World country but a developing economy which stands on the threshold of emerging as tomorrow's economic giant. Any residual images of India that may have lingered in the U.S. of the PL 480 days, were wiped away by the strength of conviction with which he spoke: He appealed without cringing; he beseeched without pleading; and, he demanded the attention that has been denied all these years of people who matter. Not surprisingly, at the end of the day, he has earned the respect and admiration of at least one section of American society—the business community—which also happens to be extremely influential.

In fact, it can be said with a degree of certainty that the immediate effect of Mr Narasimha Rao's visit will be felt in the realm of trade and commerce between the two countries. If the response of American businessmen and industrialists to the Prime Minister's statements is any indication, then they can be expected to push aside all doubts that may still exist about the future of economic liberalisation in this country and invest in the Indian market. Therefore, before the year is over, the total amount of American investment in India could well be many times over the present level of $1.1 billion. This is, of course, a supposition that is dependent upon many variables, but it will be extremely surprising if there is no upsurge in American investment in the Indian economy.

However, no such certainty can be applied in the other crucial area of Indo-American relations. For, official U.S. Administration policy towards India will not necessarily be influenced by a single summit meeting and it will be incorrect to judge developments on this front on the basis of improved trade and investment. After all, while industrialists and businessmen have a narrow perspective and are goaded by the profit motive, politicians have to take into account larger issues and are prompted by imperatives that may be of little interest to the former. This difference is best exemplified by the fact that while American investors are loath to get bogged down with issues like human rights violations, the U.S. Administration cannnot but rake up such issues from time to time despite the negative fallout this invariably has on bilateral relations. If further elaboration is needed, it can be found in Sino-American relations.

But neither is there any reason to believe that official American policy will remain entirely unaffected and that White House will persist with the status quo. American business is known to have greatly influenced foreign policy in the past and it is more than likely that those who dream of multiplying their wealth with the help of the Indian market will be more than eager to bring about pressure on policy-makers not to upset the apple cart. To that extent, Mr Narasimha Rao has skilfully sought to win over American businessmen and industrialists, fully aware of the fact that at moments of crisis they can prove to be effective allies and protect India's interests. Even otherwise, despite persisting differences, a greater understanding of India's position can be expected on issues like nuclear nonproliferation, the missile programme and Kashmir. As much was evident from the tone and tenor of Mr Clinton's comments at the post-summit Press conference and those of officials later.

More importantly, Mr Narasimha Rao's trip has initiated a process that could yield rich dividends for India in the long run. For instance, the planned visits by high-level officials of the U.S. Administration over the next one year can only take the dialogue for constructive cooperation to its logical conclusion. No less important is the demonstrative value of such interaction: The message of joint Indo-U.S. military exercises, if they come about, to subcontinental countries inimical towards India cannot be overemphasised. However, one area that will continue to cause some amount of friction is American policy on Pakistan and its fallout on the sub-continent. Although Mr Clinton has stressed that the Kashmir issue has to be ultimately solved through bilateral negotiations, a point that has been reiterated in the communique (which interestingly validates the same Shimla Agreement that was not so long ago rubbished by the Assistant Secretary of State, Ms Robin Raphel), he has shown an ambivalent attitude towards Islamabad's role in sponsoring terrorism in the Valley.

Both Mr Narasimha Rao and Mr Clinton, one an elderly politician groomed in the Cold War era and the other a representative of the baby boomers' generation, have shown exemplary effort to check the downslide in relations between the two countries and start a new chapter that will be written over the next few years. Neither of them may be in office by the time the last line of this chapter is written, but hopefully their efforts will ensure that it ends on a happy note of mutual accommodation.

'Indifferent' U.S. Attitude Scored

BK2505053594 Delhi JANSATTA in Hindi 21 May 94 p 6

[Editorial: "Practical Success"]

[Text] It is impractical to look for a spectacular outcome to the Rao-Clinton talks; this was not expected from Prime Minister Narasimha Rao's U.S. visit. There were already indications that no solution would be found to the differences between India and America, and it was not expected that India's standing would suddenly rise in the eyes of U.S. statesmen and businessmen. The only hope was that the summit meeting between India and America would produce a better understanding, which had been weak for a number of years. With this personal communication between the heads of government of the two countries, more businesslike ties might develop between India and America. Relations have previously been bogged down in a quagmire of bureaucratic language and prejudice.

From this point of view, Narasimha Rao's visit can be termed a success. In his joint news conference, the prime minister stated that the talks were "constructive, useful, and forthright." The forthrightness is reflected in the fact that both leaders agreed there are differences that still persist. India reiterated its stance regarding the NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty], human rights, and Kashmir, but America remained steadfast in its reasoning. The talks were useful in the sense that India could properly gauge U.S. priorities for the first time. For his part, the prime minister tried to emphasize not only that India is the largest democratic country with a potential to emerge as the greatest market in the world, but its humanitarian and pacifist concerns are no less than those of America.

The constructive nature of the talks will only become known in the future. The prime minister proposed that for the sake of a nuclear-free world there should be agreement on "no first strike" with nuclear weapons. He also agreed that a program of joint exercises between Indian and U.S. forces should be undertaken to safeguard South Asian and Pacific security. If these things are considered constructive, that is one matter; the true usefulness of the prime minister's visit was the possibility of heavy U.S. investment in India. How far Narasimha Rao succeeded in this regard will become known only after concrete results are achieved.

The prime minister's visit proved useful in one sense. Even though President Clinton declared India the biggest successful democracy and praised its contributions, this feeling was neither reflected in the U.S. media nor in the behavior of U.S. senators. The U.S. media ignored the prime minister's visit from the beginning, and when they did notice, they treated it as an insignificant event. U.S. statesmen were so indifferent toward the prime minister's address to a joint session of Congress that only three dozen members from both houses came to listen. Newspapers ignored the event completely. Most of the questions asked in the joint news conference were addressed to President Clinton, and many had no bearing on Indo-U.S. relations. This indifference came despite the fact that this was the first state visit by an Indian prime minister in many years; Rajiv Gandhi was the last prime minister to visit the United States. This attitude has nothing to do with the prime minister's success or failure, but the inherent fact that India is not a U.S. priority cannot be ignored. It is therefore easy to understand that in the present atmosphere we will not be able to carve the proper niche for ourselves in Western politics—which move on the basis of power and prosperity—by extolling goodwill and our cultural superiority. India is not considered great on the basis of population, natural resources, or democratic tradition. It will have to transfer these attributes into solid results. It is futile to repeat Jawaharlal's prophecy that the next century would be a U.S. century; we will have to find a strategy to make the next century belong to India.

Article Praises 'Stringent' New Copyright Law

BK2505145794 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 23 May 94 p 9

[Text] The Copyright (Second Amendment) Bill passed by Parliament earlier this month is the most stringent law to be ever passed anywhere in the world to check the growing cancer of video piracy gripping both developed and developing countries.

The bill has been welcomed as a serious attempt to give more teeth to the existing laws. Violation of copyright is a cognisable offence, but now punishment is sought to be made more severe. For the first time, Indian laws will provide for performers right covering any visual or accoustic presentation made live by performers, such as, actors, singers, dancers, acrobats etc. The performers consent is now required by making audio or audio-visual recording of the live performances and for communicating the performance to the public.

Another progressive feature of the bill is that it extends the copyright in sale and hire of computer programmes, cinematograph films and sound recording. This is in addition to all other rights available to other class of creative works such as reproduction, communication to the public, translation, adaptation etc. A provision has also been made for giving the authors of original copies of paintings, sculptures, drawings or original manuscripts, a right to a share in subsequent sales of copies on the resale price.

The Copyright Act hitherto provided only for recognition of Performing Rights Societies. The bill now provides for detailed provisions for recognition of copyright societies who are authorised to engage in collective administration of copyright for different classes of creative work. The bill provides for promotion of and encouragement of copyright societies for administration of the right of its members such as for issuing licences and collect licence fees, distribution of such fees among its members, etc. This will add to the economic strength and status of creative artists.

A large number of provisions in the amending bill are clarificatory of the terms used in the 1957 Act, e.g. computer programme is separately defined and it is clarified that knowing use of an infringing copy of a programme would be an offence under the Act and musical works are not required to be in the form of graphic notations as in the case of Western music, for the purpose of enjoying the copyright protection.

The legal experts say that special care has been taken in the bill to ensure that while an author or artist assigns copyright for exploitation the agreement should specify the royalty payable to the author or legal heirs during the period of protection. Similarly, the agreement should clearly spell out scope of rights transferred, the duration and the territorial extent. These are intended to protect the economic interests of the artists and authors.

Mr Lowell B. Strong, Vice-President and Director, Asia/Pacific Anti-Piracy unit of the Motion Picture Export Association of America, says that piracy of video films and other intellectual works is an international problem. He says it is a phenomenon of the eighties which ushered in a new technological era of cable satellite, telecommunications and video recorders.

With the increasing circulation of intellectual works among countries, the ramifications of piracy extend beyond national confines and are international in character, Mr Strong said, while describing the Indian bill as the "best" and "most progressive" copyright laws in the world. He says that the association will soon set up an office in Delhi to check piracy of Universal and Paramount films. These two American films companies have decided to provide in the country original video cassettes, through CIC, a Delhi based company.

Mr Pradip Chanda, Chief of CIC Video (India) says that the latest amendments—the second major review since the first Indian Copyright Act came into effect in 1957—will enhance India's credibility in the international sphere because it gives an assurance to a foreign investor that fair business can be conducted in accordance with the declared policy of the Government of India.

Mr R. K. Jain, President of the National Bar Association, says problem in this country is not with the law but its enforcement. India does not have effective machinery to deal with violations of copyright laws. Police is not trained to deal with such kind of offences. Violation of the Copyright Act has always been a cognisable offence but since the provisions of the act are complex the police have seldom acted to enforce these provisions, says Mr Jain.

In order to deal with problem of enforcement, the Government has asked the States to explore the possibility of constituting special cells to check violations of copyright law. The official sources say that the formation of copyright enforcement cells would ensure the availability of a trained force that could prevent the violation of the law.

Mr Maxwell Peirera, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crimes), says whenever we receive genuine complaints and orders from the Court the police always conduct raids and register cases against those who violates the Copyright law. But, he says the problem is, people don't come with sufficient evidence and in absence of that it is very difficult for law enforcing agencies to act and take action.

The roots of the Copyright Act 1957 lie firmly embedded in the past when the Copyright law of British India was closely intertwined with that of Britain. It replaced the Indian Copyright Act of 1914, which made applicable to British India with additional modification, the Imperial Copyright Act, 1911.

Developments which occurred in this field in the international arena forced the pace of development of national copyright laws. The act does not break away from the past but renovates and builds a modern superstructure on the old foundation. For the first time, it established a Copyright office under the immediate control of the Registrar of Copyrights, a civil servant in charge of administrative matters pertaining to the act and provided for the maintenance of a Registrar of Copyrights.

The Act also introduced a quasi-judicial Copyright Board under the Chairmanship of a sitting or retired judge of the Supreme Court of India or of a High Court or of a person who is qualified to be appointed as a judge of the High Court and vested the Copyright Board with important power.

The original 1957 Act gave recognition for the first time to cinematograph films as a distinct class of work eligible for copyright protection and to a special right, called 'broadcast reproduction right', in programmes broadcast by radio and television. It also recognised for the first time the 'moral right of the author.'

Russia To Deliver First Cryogenic Engine in 1996

BK2605103594 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Russia will deliver the first of the seven cryogenic engines it is to supply to India in 1996. This was disclosed by the Russian first deputy foreign minister, Mr. Anatoliy Adamishin, in an interview to UNI TV during his visit to New Delhi recently. Mr. Adamishin, however, said under the terms of the recent agreement the technology for the cryogenic engines will not be transferred to India. He said India and Russia are likely to sign a comprehensive agreement on cooperation in the field of space technology during the forthcoming visit of the Indian prime minister to Russia. In reply to a question, Mr. Adamishin said Russia has been supplying spares for India's defense equipment. He said the two countries are discussing a proposal to set up joint ventures to manufacture military spares.

Iran

President Welcomes Turkmen Counterpart to Mashhad

LD2605084394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0630 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] The Islamic President of Iran Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani arrived in Mashhad this morning. He was welcomed at the airport by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Va'ez-Tabasi, custodian of the Razavi holy shrine and the vali-ye faqih's representative in Khorasan; Mr. Mofidi, the governor-general; and local officials of the province. After arriving at Mashhad airport, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani told a correspondent of the Central News Unit that the objective of this visit is to pay his respect to Imam Reza, peace be upon him, to open a consulate office of the Turkmenistan Republic in Mashhad, and to hold a series of economic talks with President Saparmurad Niyazov of Turkmenistan.

Simultaneous with arrival of the Islamic president of Iran in holy Mashhad, Mr. Saparmurad Niyazov also arrived at the head of a high-ranking delegation. He was welcomed at the airport by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman on Yemen, Island Dispute

LD2405193294 Tehran IRNA in English 1906 GMT 24 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 24, IRNA—A Foreign Ministry spokesman said here today that the Islamic Republic regrets efforts being made to split up the unity of Islamic Yemen. He expressed hope that the officials in Yemen would try political solutions for safeguarding the accomplishments of the country.

Referring to the situation in the occupied land, he said Iran had previously warned against anti-Palestinian schemes. He cautioned that plots were underway to pit Palestinians against each other.

The spokesman said Islamic Iran warns against the plots being hatched by the Zionist occupiers. He said Iran yearns to see the Palestinians for ever united in their ranks.

Asked to comment on King Fahd's observation on the Persian Gulf islands of Iran, he said such remarks are aimed at strengthening the position of alien forces and weakening the Muslim people of the region.

These islands belong to the Islamic Republic and would continue to be so and calling them "Arab islands" would not change the reality in connection with those territories of the Islamic Republic.

The Iranian official commented that Fahd would obviously have done a lot better had he called on the Zionist regime to abide by international protocols and respect international conventions and refuse to engage in such acts of state terrorism as abduction which it did in Lebanon of a prominent leader just a few days ago.

Paper Blames Both Sides for Yemeni Breakup

LD2505084094 Tehran IRNA in English 0732 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 25, IRNA—The Persian daily 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' here Wednesday [25 May] in a political commentary, termed partition of Yemen as a treachery to people's ideals. The paper said that the declaration of the break up of Yemen's unification by the Aden government and formation of a 5-man Presidential Council was as deplorable as the undesirable performance of Sanaa leaders in running the state during the past four years.

This has proven the inefficiency of the Yemeni leaders, the paper said adding that the leaders both in the north and the south are not concerned about the country and the nation. The article criticized the northerners for following a policy of taking vengeance on the statesmen of the south, and added that the very same policy led to injustice, discrimination, unjust distribution of power and overlooking solutions offered by the experts from south during these years.

The organized propaganda against the political and economic performance of the southern rulers and unjustified criticism of the dismissed southern statesmen as well as aggrandizing the image of the Sanaa regime, indeed, are the main causes of discord, dissatisfaction and hostility between the two, added the daily.

Not only these factors but the foreign instigations including the destructive and seditious role of the corrupt Saudi Government made the southerners to seek separation and partition just on the anniversary of the unification of the country, it said. The paper further argued that if the northerners did not follow a proper policy in the administraton of the country during the recent years, the southerners too were not trustworthy elements for the Yemeni people.

Therefore, said the article, if one day the Yemeni nation is given an opportunity to freely participate in a healthy elections, they would not vote for the present leaders of both parts of Yemen.

However, the paper argued, Yemenis have realized that the leaders of their country never took into consideration the national interests in their diplomacy and administration of the country but merely focused their attention on gaining absolute power.

The paper concluded saying that the Yemenis think that the prosperity and stability of their country are subject to the preservation of unification, national sovereignty and territorial integrity of their country.

Radio Assails Fahd's Remarks on Islands Dispute

LD2505113294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1005 GMT 25 May 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] In response to the remarks made by Fahd, the shah of Arabia, on the Iranian islands of the Persian Gulf, the Islamic Republic Foreign Ministry announced: These islands are Iranian and will remain Iranian and nothing will alter this fact.

During a speech two days ago, while inviting the United States to show a greater and more active presence in the Middle East region, Fahd commented on Iran and its relations with the neighboring states, saying: Iran should observe international regulations and should return to the United Arab Emirates [UAE] the three islands in the southern sector of the Persian Gulf.

Saudi Arabia, in view of the role it assumes for itself among the tiny states of the Persian Gulf, has always tried to present itself as the leader of these states in the region by interfering in their affairs. Therefore, while the Islamic Republic is striving to remove the misunderstanding with the UAE on the basis of a bilateral agreement, Arabia by raising and exacerbating the issue is presenting itself as a claimant on this matter. Fahd's remarks have no legal base either. For Saudi Arabia is neither an acceptable source of arbitration with sufficient credibility to express an opinion on issues of other countries, nor should the head of state of a third country comment fundamentally on the territorial possessions of others.

If we were to analyze Fahd's comments as a whole, we would realize that he is raising these matters just to please those powers which benefit from creation of discord among the Islamic countries. This is a policy in line with America's policies and is implemented to isolate Iran in the region.

Iran, in accordance with its independent policies, is opposed to the course of compromise, is opposed to the expansion of the Zionist regime's presence, and is against the U.S. presence in the region. Whereas the United States, by leading the compromise course, is striving to open the gate of the Islamic countries to the Zionist regime and to strengthen the foundations of its own presence in the Middle East region. For the same reason the United States has always tried to isolate Iran in the region and to neutralize its role as a regional power.

Majles Speaker Holds News Conference

LD2505231294 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1535 GMT 25 May 94

[News conference by Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri with domestic and foreign reporters in Tehran on 24 May—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Unidentified REUTER correspondent] Mr. Nateq, please tell us about the reports, which were also reflected in our Iranian newspapers, that high-ranking officials from the U.S. Government contacted Iran on the possibility of ascertaining common interests between Iran and the United States and about the importance of Iran's strategic role for the United States. Please tell us if such a thing happened or not.

[Nateq-Nuri] No, I have no news of any high-level contacts between Iran and the United States. Essentially the eminent leader has closed the door to contacts, negotiations, or relations with the Americans and he has graciously said that that path is a dead end. No one can do anything without his permission and that has not taken place. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified KEYHAN correspondent] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Mr. Nateq-Nuri, King Fahd has called for the handover of the Iranian islands to the United Arab Emirates [UAE] in a message on the occasion of the 'Id al-Adha. Although our country's authorities have expressly stated their view on the issue on numerous occasions we would like to know your views on this and King Fahd's new statements. [passage omitted]

[Nateq-Nuri] This is the issue: Regarding the islands—the three islands of Abu Musa, the Greater and the Lesser Tonbs—there is no problem at all regarding the Greater and Lesser Tonb Islands. Recently, when the Abu Musa issue was raised, our neighbors prefer to raise the issue of the three islands together now. We wonder what incident in recent years has caused our neighbors to think of that issue. We have an agreement from 1971 which was accepted by the ruler of al-Shariqah at that time on al-Shariqah television and confirmed by him. The agreement, I should say was about Abu Musa. The issue mainly concerned Abu Musa. Now they say one issue is not enough and they have added the other two to it as well, otherwise it would not amount to much. We have an agreement according to which Iran is there as well as al-Shariqah. There are some Arabs from al-Shariqah living there. We have acted according to that agreement up to now and we are still acting on it. Nothing new has happened. We have always said that an incident did occur. We saw a spy near there and apprehended him—in the past two or three years—then we enhanced the security factor there. Someone comes from the other end of the world in a boat, having put ammunition in hidden compartments in the boat, and begins sailing around Abu Musa, and when he is apprehended he says he came here to fish. Now what thinking person would accept that someone should come fishing with ammunition in the boat?

Well, we enhanced the security factor and as soon as we did that our neighbors' sensitivity was increased and they raised the issues of Abu Musa, the Greater and Lesser Tonbs. We have told them up to now, and truly believe, that the issue must be between us and the UAE. There is no problem. We have been and still are ready for negotiation. We sent delegations there. They should have come but they didn't. I did tell the Kuwaiti brothers who came here, the Qatari brothers who came here, that your problem is that when an issue arises in the region you fail to research it before making a decision on it. Because of the mere fact that one side is Arab and the other non-Arab, you convene the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council and your Arab prejudice blossoms. [passage omitted]

[ASAI correspondent, in English, followed by Persian translation] Mr. Speaker, I am a Japanese news correspondent. I have one question: relationship between Iran and Egypt. Foreign Minister Velayati will go soon to Cairo for NAM [Nonaligned Movement] meeting. Dr. Velayati will meet with Egyptian counterpart in that time for talking resuming two countries' relationship. Can we expect two countries will make good relationship in near future?

[Nateq-Nuri] We pay much attention to the NAM and regard it as valuable. Because we consider the NAM important we consider our presence there to be useful and effective. We consider the strengthening of the NAM to be a principle. The more it becomes strengthened the more its members will benefit. Therefore we believe participation in the session—even though it is in

Egypt—to be appropriate, as you have pointed out. There is nothing to prevent the honorable foreign minister from seeking to talk with his counterparts or others on the sidelines of the gathering. But as to what the results of those discussions will be, perforce we must wait until he goes there and has those talks on the sidelines. He will then bring back his report to Iran so that we can see what we must do on the basis of that.

[Unidentified foreign correspondent] [passage omitted] There has been much talk about Iran's foreign debts in recent months. It has been a very hot topic. I would like to ask the president...[pauses] the Majles speaker about his views on this issue. In other words, what are the prospects for this matter, this debt?

[Nateq-Nuri] [passage omitted] The debt poses no particular problem for a country that has so many Godgiven resources, natural capital, power, and equipment. [passage omitted] Let me add a sentence that I personally believe that of course, regarding those very debts, if the state economic authorities had acted more meticulously and gracefully we would have had fewer problems. That point must be worth considering.

[Moderator] After a visit by a group of U.S. journalists and editors to Iran a hue and cry was begun about it in some of the press and that is when the group had meetings with Iranian authorities, including yourself. Taking into consideration the fact that on the whole the American people have no animosity toward us and—reciprocally—we have no animosity toward them, do you agree with the stances that were taken by the press?

[Nateq-Nuri] Everyone is responsible for his own actions, after all. A paper assumes a particular stance because its analysis and understanding of an issue is such. I also have read those stances in those papers. It was unclear to them who they were, what objectives they were pursuing, where they had come from, and who had invited them to Iran—since that is not clear to us. Apparently the papers had agreed on a meeting with them somewhere and—perhaps because of the same problems—they later cancelled the meeting. Since it was clear to me—and I was in contact with Mr. Kharrazi, our permanent envoy to the United Nations—it was coordinated and what they were coming for was specified. They had been invited. Mr. Kharrazi pursued the affair. Consequently I had a session—or, properly, an interview—with them just like the one that I am having with you. They posed questions. I also believe that when correspondents come— wherever they come from—we will not lose anything. I myself told them how good it was that they had come because the U.S. Administration tells many lies about us. You should come here to see the issues, to hear them and then go back and tell the truth about things to the American people. If you are man enough, tell the truth. But do come. We have things to say, and we do not have any apprehensions either about their coming here to see Iran at close range. We have done many things that can be presented. As you noted, we really have no quarrel with the people of the United States. We believe their governments to be hegemonist and believe that they are being unkind even to the people of the United States themselves. I told the U.S. journalists that we have a friendly complaint against the people of the United States for allowing such governments to rule over them. [passage omitted]

Ra'd-7 Military Operation Ends in Shiraz

LD2505091894 Tehran IRNA in English 0631 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 25, IRNA—The grand 'Ra'd 7' (Thunder) military exercise ended in Darengon region of Shiraz, in southern Fars Province, Wednesday [25 May] morning in the presence of senior military officials. The military exercise was launched on May 22, marking the 12th anniversary of the liberation of the port city of Khorramshahr from Iraqi occupation.

Acting Commander of the Ground Forces General Karim Ebadat while inspecting the maneuver told IRNA that the military exercise was aimed at increasing the combat power of the forces. Various infantry and artillery units of the army, equipped with light and heavy weapons, participated in the military exercise.

'Fourth Phase' Recounted

LD2505125794 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1130 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] In continuation of the Ra'd-7 [Thunder-7] military exercise in the Darenjan region of Shiraz, the operations entered its fourth phase. During this exercise infantry units, an airborne division, and tank units crossed minefields and barbed wire with the support of the ground forces artillery and helicopters and the air force of the Islamic Republic of Iran. They captured various obstacles and dug canals. It is worth mentioning that after completion of this phase, the participating units were deployed in their defense positions.

S. African Official: Tehran Embassy To Open 'Soon'

LD2505153394 Tehran IRNA in English 1142 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 25, IRNA—South Africa is to open its embassy in Tehran soon, Nicou Nel, a South African official now visiting Tehran said here Wednesday.

Meeting with First Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Hashemi, Nicou Nel, director of the Middle East and North Africa [as received] at the South African Foreign Ministry expressed hope the foreign minister of South Africa could soon visit Tehran.

Referring to the major role that the Islamic Republic of Iran plays in the Persian Gulf and international community, Nel said officials of his country were for expansion of technical, industrial and trade relations with Iran.

Hashemi underlined Iran's readiness to expand ties with South Africa in various fields.

Iran severed its diplomatic relations with South Africa following the victory of the Islamic revolution in 1979. But Tehran and Pretoria have decided to resume relations following the abolition of racial segregation in South Africa.

Delegation Seeks Expanded Trade

LD2605113694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] In the context of expanding political-economic cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and South Africa, the first South African political-economic delegation headed by their Foreign Ministry director general arrived in Tehran for talks on defining ways of cooperation between the two countries.

Members of the 13-man delegation, which includes a number of government and private sector officials, this morning attended a seminar on the expansion of economic relations at Iran's Chambers of Trade, Industry, and Mines and announced that they were prepared to expand trade and economic relations with Iran.

According to our correspondent: Shayk-ol-elslam [name as heard], our country's deputy foreign minister in charge of Afro-Arab affairs told the meeting the fact that the Islamic Republic of Iran was the first country to reopen its embassy in South Africa after the end of apartheid indicated Iranian interest in cooperation with South Africa in all fields.

Referring to oil, industry, and trade as fields for the expansion of economic relations between the two countries, he called on industrialists and businessmen to take into account the common views of the political and economic officials in the two countries and start efforts toward the expansion of cooperation.

During their stay in Iran, the South African delegation will meet economic representatives of the government and the private sector as well as industrialists.

Persian Gulf Island Seeks Foreign Investment

NC2405074294 Paris AFP in English 0142 GMT 24 May 94

[Report by Kianush Dorrani]

[Text] Qeshm, Iran, May 24 (AFP)—Qeshm, a free-trade zone and largest island in the Persian Gulf, is seeking to attract foreign investment and become another eldorado like the emirate of Dubayy across the water.

With an area of 1,500 square kilometers (600 square miles), population of 60,000 and vast natural gas resources, the island off southern Iran aims to turn into a major industrial and offshore banking zone.

Qeshm "can compete with other free-trade zones in the region and serve as a center for trade with Central Asian countries," said the managing director of the zone, Behruz Bushehri. However, the authorities have failed to attract major foreign investment since the island on the Strait of Hormoz, through which one-fifth of the world's crude passes, was turned into a free-trade zone three years ago.

Western economic experts blame reluctance to invest in Qeshm on the lack of clear investment laws in Iran, saying the existing regulations do not provide adequate guarantees. Although officials on the island say potential foreign investors can sink up to 100 percent in a project, the Iranian constitution limits foreign ventures in Iran to 49 percent.

Bushehri acknowledged to journalists that foreign investments in Qeshm would "not be insured by the central bank," whose guarantee most potential investors have sought. Guarantees would come instead from the Organisation of Free-Trade Zones in Iran, which oversees Qeshm, Kish (also on the Gulf), Chah Bahar (on the Sea of Oman), Sirjan (in Kerman Province) and Bandar-e 'Anzali (on the Caspian). Bushehri also confirmed that foreigners were not allowed to own land in free-trade zones.

After having been used as a platform for importing luxury goods over the past three years, Qeshm now seeks to help boost exports and serve as a financial center in the region and a base for offshore banks.

These ambitious projects could prove difficult on a sun-scorched island which up until recent years had been left abandoned. Except for a 108-room hotel under construction with Malaysian money, none of the joint-venture projects of the past three years have yet been launched, mainly due to lack of funds. Among the projects are a steel foundry with Japan's Kobe company, a power plant with Germany's Siemens, a cement factory with China and a fertilizer plant with India.

A Qeshm official, who declined to be identified, admitted any competition with the free-trade zone of Jabal 'Ali across the Gulf in Dubayy, United Arab Emirates [UAE], would be difficult. He pointed to "sizeable investments made there by multinational corporations, which all have the green light from the United States." Washington, which fell out with Tehran when the 1979 Islamic revolution deposed the pro-Western shah, has imposed economic sanctions on Iran for its alleged support of terrorism.

The Qeshm authorities, however, are gradually developing the island, having joined it to the nationwide electricity grid and built hundreds of kilometers of paved roads over the last two years. Work has also begun on the construction of an international airport, although plans to build a 2.5-kilometer (1.5-mile) road and railway bridge to connect the island to the mainland are still on the drawing board. A project to build a deep-water port to cater for big ships has also failed to make headway.

But while the authorities await foreign investments and economic prosperity for the island, the people of Qeshm are casting their eyes across the Gulf at Dubayy, the eldorado of the region. The port city in the UAE is the main source of smuggled goods entering Iran.

TEHRAN TIMES Skeptical of Price Controls

LD2605085794 Tehran IRNA in English 0559 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 26, IRNA—A morning English daily here Thursday [26 May] commented on the recent decision by the government to control prices and said that pricing policy might serve as a "tranquilizer" but it will not ultimately be a cure or a remedy.

The 'TEHRAN TIMES' in its editorial expressed pessimism over the new policy which was launched to curb the inordinate price hikes and ease down the existing economic pressures faced by the consumers.

The paper referred to the incompatibility with economic liberalization and with the supply-demand trend, its requirement to a monitoring body which is in conflict with the policy for manpower adjustment and its insufficiency for the commodities whose prices were perpetually undergoing changes as some of the disadvantages of the policy.

Without a tinge [of] doubt, the paper said, such a policy will not slash or stabilize the prices. To the contrary, it will cause a qualitative and quantitative slump in production, it added.

The article noted in conclusion that the officials should reduce inflation rates and curb price hikes by "opening up avenues to promote economy and production and ultimately to warrant economic prosperity."

Oil Company Official Sees 'Faint' Hope of Price Hike

LD2305085594 Tehran IRNA in English 0656 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 23, IRNA—A senior official at the National Iranian Oil Company [NIOC] said that the oil price increase of the past few weeks is a result of temporary difficulties and optimistic prospects for the rest of the year seem faint.

Head of the company's international relations Ghanimifar Mohabat Ghanimifar, in an interview with the English daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' which appeared Monday, noted that OPEC and non-OPEC members have cooperated closely in order to stabilize prices so that neither producers nor consumers incur losses. The extreme winter conditions in the northern hemisphere have lowered oil reserves in industrial nations of the west including the United States, he added. Since many western countries are slowly recovering from recession and economies seem to be speedily improving, the demand for oil is bound to increase, Ghanimifar remarked. "Furthermore", he said "OPEC countries have been producing according to agreed-upon quotas during the past few months, as a result of which markets have not been flooded with supplies".

The approach of Saudi Arabia and Iran after certain OPEC sessions has been constructive and had definitely contributed to price increases in international markets, he continued.

Referring to fighting in Yemen, political unrest in Nigeria and low North Sea reserves as elements affecting the market, Ghanimifar said that the stock market speculations and share sales may have been another reason for the price hike. Consumer countries are worried that the agreement reached between OPEC and non-OPEC producers could result in producers' monopolizing the market which was rejected by Ghanimifar. He also mentioned that in the very near future, Iraq will once again be able to sell oil and saturate the market at which point greater cooperation on adjusting and staying within quotas will be needed.

He concluded by suggesting that cooperation between the oil producers should be initiated long before the market begins to dictate its terms on prices.

Editorial Views President's Remarks on Media

NC2205112194 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 14 May 94 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "In the Margin of the President's Remarks"]

[Excerpts] Even though the president's remarks to journalists and authors were very timely and appropriate, nevertheless parts of them were disappointing. [passage omitted]

The president referred to two confidential reports in his remarks. One was about the discovery of "bugging" devices at the Iranian Embassy in London and the other about foreign debts.

If he had considered the press to be trustworthy, the best thing to do would have been to call in the press and explain things. His reference to coordination with Western countries should be viewed within this context. In other words, all the lie disseminators and mass media in the West know everything, while no one in Iran does.

Our press always gets its major news from others, so the press has no alternative but to refer to foreign news and mass media among its other news sources. If the officials of the country are not aware of this, then they should be; and if they are aware of this and still do not give information to the press, then they should expect such reactions.

The president also said coordination of some of the items published in our press with foreign radios that later reported them was negative in value. It is all right if the foreign press cites millions of words uttered by our officials, but when one sentence that we write is cited by a foreign publication or mass media—and possibly by the counterrevolution—this is considered to be coordination and cooperation with the counterrevolution.

More important still, should the press, which complains about high prices and inflation, be subsidized? Does this not actually mean that if the press is able to overcome its problems, it will cease to report about high prices and inflation? If this ever happens, then the press will distance itself from the people and the people will sever their links with the press because they will clearly realize that since it is subsidized, the press will no longer protest against high prices and the absence of correct economic planning.

Has the press not carried numerous articles about economic issues? Has anyone read these articles? Or have these economic views been buried in politicking? As many economic articles have been published over the past four years as in the whole previous history of Iran. But who listens to such analyses? Unfortunately it is apparent that some of the economic analyses have been completely ignored simply because they would have benefited the opposing faction.

Theories on how to increase the strength of the national currency have been put forward. But unfortunately the Central Bank, which should undertake this task, has itself become a major factor in devaluing the national currency.

As for the esteemed president's remarks that each publication should become an economic analyst and study the situation, this has been done. But it has not yielded any results. Of course it is hoped that gradually, when the problems of some of the theories are clarified, there will at least be a willingness to accept criticism. And this might help us to turn away from the wrong path that is being tread and to chose the correct path—even if only for the sake of the people.

IRNA Inaugurates Satellite System

LD2505181294 Tehran IRNA in English 1753 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] Arak (Central Province), May 25, IRNA—IRNA Director Fereydoun Verdinejad said here today that the main task of the Iranian journalists is to introduce the real nature of the Islamic Republic system.

Speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the IRNA satellite system, and the new building of IRNA bureau here, he said that the enemies of Islam were attempting to misportray the Islamic Republic in the eyes of the world people.

"The arrogance media circulate only a selection of the Iranian news in line with their political objectives," he said.

Meanwhile, Mohammad Reza Sadeq, in charge of the expansion of the IRNA local centers, said that the new 350-sq.-meter building had been constructed on 1,118 sq. meters of land at a cost of Rls. 125 million.

Pakistan

Asif Ali Sees New Phase of Relationship With U.S.

BK1405150794 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali has said Pakistan and the United States are entering a new phase of their relationship. Inaugurating a seminar on Pakistan's Foreign Policy Achievements in Islamabad today, the foreign minister said Pakistan-U.S. relations were marred due to the unjust Pressler Amendment. Both Pakistan and the United States have recognized Pressler Amendment as a bad law. He said the United States is not attempting to roll back Pakistan's nuclear program on a unilateral basis. Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali said soon after the assumption of office, the prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, embarked upon a program to end Pakistan's diplomatic isolation. She undertook measures to restore Pakistan's image as a modern, democratic, and forward-looking state committed to promotion and protection of human rights and desirous of building tension-free relations with all countries, especially its neighbors.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Pays Visit

First Round Talks Held

BK1505142494 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] Pakistan and Russia held the first round of talks in Islamabad today. Besides bilateral relations, matters of regional and international importance were discussed in the meeting. Russian First Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoly Adamishin and Foreign Secretary Najmuddin Sheikh led their respective sides at the talks.

President Meets With Adamishin

BK1705012294 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] The first deputy foreign minister of the Russian Federation, Mr. Anatoly Adamishin, called on the president, Mr. Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari, in Islamabad today. During the meeting he exchanged views on developments in the region and Pakistan-Russia bilateral matters with the president. The Russian deputy foreign minister said there existed a lot of scope for enhancing economic cooperaion between Pakistan and Russia. The president said that the two sides should explore the possibilities on cooperation in the field of science and technology.

Spokesman Comments on Visit

BK1905003894 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin has invited Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to visit Russia. The visit, to take place at the end of the year, will be preceded by a visit by the Pakistani foreign minister to Moscow. A Foreign Office spokesman said that during the recent visit by Anatoliy Adamishin, Russian first deputy foreign minister, Pakistan had expressed its desire to increase economic and political relations with Russia and the Central Asian states.

Answering a question about the purchase of Russian military equipment, the spokesman said there is no hurdle facing us regarding cooperation between the two countries. He said we want cooperation with Russia in all fields.

Peace Plan To Be Submitted to Afghan Leaders

BK1905032794 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] Pakistan decided to submit a peace plan to Afghan leaders next week during the reopening of its mission in Afghanistan. This was stated by Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali in Islamabad yesterday. He said the peace plan has been formulated on the basis of proposals by influential Afghan leaders, which provides a common basis for establishing peace in the war- ravaged country of Afghanistan. The foreign minister said that he will visit Kabul on 25 May for this purpose. He said that he held talks with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Crown Prince Turki, and leaders of other countries after receiving requests from Afghan leaders. He said that he held a similar exchange of views with UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali to secure his assistance in establishing peace in Afghanistan.

Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali also announced that Pakistan will establish a mission in (Hayat) and a consulate in Mazar-e Sharif. This indicates the importance Pakistan attaches to these places, which link Pakistan with Central Asian countries.

Navy Chief: Indian Navy Missile Program 'Ominous'

BK1605095494 Islamabad THE NATION in English 16 May 94 pp 1, 4

[Text] Karachi (APP)—Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Saeed M. Khan said here on Sunday that India's hegemonic aspirations can only spell trouble for smaller states in the region.

Addressing student-officers of PN [Pakistan Navy] Staff College here, Admiral Saeed said India's interest in seeking naval cooperation with regional countries is aimed at allaying regional apprehension about its naval buildup on the one hand and isolating Pakistan in the region, on the other.

India is also trying to portray China as an "external" adversary to justify its naval expansion, now that it has retracted its opposition to US presence, he said.

The Naval Chief further said that Indian Navy is reportedly working on a programme for development of nuclear propulsion capability. Seen in the context of its nuclear capability and a comprehensive ballistic missiles programme this is ominous having profound and far-reaching implications for the entire region Admiral Saeed said.

He said, with the stoppage of US aid in 1990, the Pakistan Navy received a major setback when three PNC Orion Aircraft, which had been cleared for release, were withheld. Later, the US also insisted on the return of eight warships on expiry of their lease, Admiral Saeed added. He further said, despite all difficulties the country was on way to building a fairly modern and balanced fleet of a reasonable size.

Admiral Saeed said, the recently acquired type 21 Frigates after being updated, would adequately fill the gap created by the return of American ships. Pakistan Navy's submarines fitted with Harpoon Missiles can deliver powerful punch, but their numerical strength is below the required level.

About mine hunters, the Admiral said, Pakistan Navy's deficiency in mine countermeasures capability has been made up by the purchase of three modern mine hunters.

He said that in the present strategic scenario and in the face of continuing Indian naval expansion there is no choice but to consolidate our navy through self-reliance. He added, a long term programme has been placed before the government for building a series of surface ships at the Karachi Shipyard and Engineering Works (KSEW) in collaboration with a foreign Yard. Admiral Saeed said, this would be a major step forward which would also catalyses [as published] development in various industries in the country.

The Naval Chief said that the next few years are going to be crucial and to tax all our resources-financial, material and personnel. He added, if managed and harnessed well these resources will give the country the much needed maritime defence capability.

On his arrival earlier at the PN Staff College, Naval Chief Admiral Saeed M. Khan was received by the College Commandant, Commodore Serfraz Khan.

Flag Officers and other senior naval officers were also present on the occasion.

Aircraft To Be Purchased From Central Asian States

BK1905113194 Lahore JANG in Urdu 17 May 94 p 3

[Editorial: "Decision To Purchase Aircraft from Central Asian States"]

[Text] According to a press report, Pakistan is drawing up a plan to purchase aircraft from Central Asian states as its Air Force is in need of fighter planes expeditiously. India's stepped up war preparations have intensified this need. Although negotiations are under way for the purchase of French aircraft, it might take three to four years to give effect to the talks and the changes taking place at the international and regional level are so rapid that there is no room for any complacency in the country's defense matters. For quite some time, Pakistan has been steadfast in its policy to purchase more and more weapons from the United States and we have suffered its repercussions through the three wars forced on us. The program formulated by the present government by deviating from its traditional path to purchase aircraft for its Air Force from Central Asian States is an important step taken in the right direction and no effort should be spared to remove all the bottlenecks on its way.

Bhutto Urged To Clarify Nuclear, Missile Reports

BK1905080294 Karachi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 17 May 94 p 4

[Editorial: "The Nuclear Program and the Prime Minister's Credibility"]

[Text] In an interview with the GULF NEWS, former Army Chief General Aslam Beg claimed that during the tenure of her previous government, Ms. Benazir Bhutto withheld research on the nuclear missile program. He added that despite that order, work on the manufacture of long-range nuclear missiles continued for one year until August 1991. Efforts were also made to acquire M-11 missiles from China. But they were not be successful at that time. Gen. Beg also explained that since the United States is trying to deprive Pakistan of a means to carry a nuclear warhead by suspending the supply of F-16's, the armed forces of Pakistan should give priority to the manufacture of missiles to carry warheads. According to Gen. Beg, research had been continuing until the end of his term despite Ms. Benazir Bhutto, in her capacity as the prime minister, banning it.

Gen. Beg's revelation requires the prime minister to take the nation into confidence and to explain why she issued orders against the production of missiles, which are so indispensable for the defense of the country and the nation. Earlier, Ms. Bhutto herself revealed that during her previous tenure of office she helped Rajiv Gandhi crush the Sikh freedom movement. Reports have also appeared now about Ms. Bhutto capping Pakistan's nuclear program during her previous term of office. These reports will definitely create doubts and apprehensions among the people about the credibility of Ms. Bhutto as a national leader and prime minister of Pakistan. Therefore, it is imperative upon Ms. Bhutto to make necessary clarifications on the television and try to remove doubts and misgivings.

The Pakistani nation is much more sensitive than India on defense matters and there is a national consensus that we must be equipped with a nuclear deterrent to protect ourselves from Indian aggression. The nation rejected the recent U.S. pressure and it is not ready to allow an inspection of its nuclear installations in exchange for F-16's. The government should not make any mistake in realizing the sentiments of the nation and the needs of the country.

The reports published the other day about the meeting of the troika—the president, the prime minister, and the army chief—in connection with the upcoming visit of President Farooq Leghari to the United States are not at all a matter of satisfaction for the nation. These reports said that the government formulated a policy of rejecting a unilateral roll back of the nuclear program. The fact is that Pakistan cannot roll back its nuclear program even bilaterally, let alone unilaterally. First of all, India will not agree to it. The second is that Pakistan is several times weaker than India even in terms of conventional forces and weapons. Therefore, progress in the nuclear field should be our only aim in order to ensure the security of our nation and the protection of our country's independence.

Sri Lanka

Parliament Extends State of Emergency

BK2205080694 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] A one month's extension to the emergency was approved by a majority of 46 votes in the parliament yesterday. One hundred and two members voted for the motion while 56 opposed it. Winding up the debate, Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said that the government is committed to establishing peace in the North and East. It has kept channels open for a negotiated settlement. The government is seeking to restore law and order throughout the island. The prime minister said that the Penal Code will be amended so that offenders could be brought to justice immediately. Mr. Wickremesinghe invited the opposition to suggest amendments to the code.

Prime Minister Leaves for ROK Visit

BK2305161494 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Sri Lanka will sign a science and technology agreement with South Korea. Prime Minister Ranil Wickremasinghe left for South Korea on an official visit last night. He will sign an agreement with his counterpart

Yi Yong-tok [name as heard]. The prime minister is also expected to hold talks with potential investors and industrialists. High-level officials of major Korean industries are expected to meet Mr. Wickremasinghe. He is scheduled to tour industrial zones in the country. South Korean cooperation will be sought to establish technical training institutes and to train our youths in that country. Leading local businessmen are simultaneously visiting South Korea to hold discussions on prospective investments and trade promotion.

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 352
MERRIFIELD, VA.

This is a U.S. Government publication. Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government. Users of this publication may cite FBIS or JPRS provided they do so in a manner clearly identifying them as the secondary source.

Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS) and Joint Publications Research Service (JPRS) publications contain political, military, economic, environmental, and sociological news, commentary, and other information, as well as scientific and technical data and reports. All information has been obtained from foreign radio and television broadcasts, news agency transmissions, newspapers, books, and periodicals. Items generally are processed from the first or best available sources. It should not be inferred that they have been disseminated only in the medium, in the language, or to the area indicated. Items from foreign language sources are translated; those from English-language sources are transcribed. Except for excluding certain diacritics, FBIS renders personal names and place-names in accordance with the romanization systems approved for U.S. Government publications by the U.S. Board of Geographic Names.

Headlines, editorial reports, and material enclosed in brackets [] are supplied by FBIS/JPRS. Processing indicators such as [Text] or [Excerpts] in the first line of each item indicate how the information was processed from the original. Unfamiliar names rendered phonetically are enclosed in parentheses. Words or names preceded by a question mark and enclosed in parentheses were not clear from the original source but have been supplied as appropriate to the context. Other unattributed parenthetical notes within the body of an item originate with the source. Times within items are as given by the source. Passages in boldface or italics are as published.

SUBSCRIPTION/PROCUREMENT INFORMATION

The FBIS DAILY REPORT contains current news and information and is published Monday through Friday in eight volumes: China, East Europe, Central Eurasia, East Asia, Near East & South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and West Europe. Supplements to the DAILY REPORTs may also be available periodically and will be distributed to regular DAILY REPORT subscribers. JPRS publications, which include approximately 50 regional, worldwide, and topical reports, generally contain less time-sensitive information and are published periodically.

Current DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications are listed in *Government Reports Announcements* issued semimonthly by the National Technical Information Service (NTIS), 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Virginia 22161 and the *Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications* issued by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

The public may subscribe to either hardcover or microfiche versions of the DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications through NTIS at the above address or by calling (703) 487-4630. Subscription rates will be provided by NTIS upon request. Subscriptions are available outside the United States from NTIS or appointed foreign dealers. New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.

U.S. Government offices may obtain subscriptions to the DAILY REPORTs or JPRS publications (hardcover or microfiche) at no charge through their sponsoring organizations. For additional information or assistance, call FBIS, (202) 338-6735,or write to P.O. Box 2604, Washington, D.C. 20013. Department of Defense consumers are required to submit requests through appropriate command validation channels to DIA, RTS-2C, Washington, D.C. 20301. (Telephone: (202) 373-3771, Autovon: 243-3771.)

Back issues or single copies of the DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications are not available. Both the DAILY REPORTs and the JPRS publications are on file for public reference at the Library of Congress and at many Federal Depository Libraries. Reference copies may also be seen at many public and university libraries throughout the United States.